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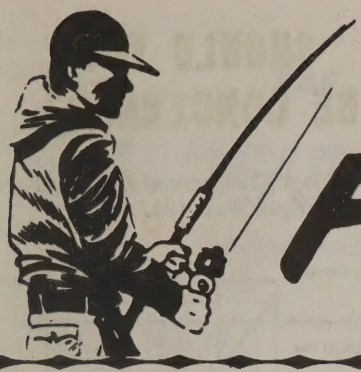
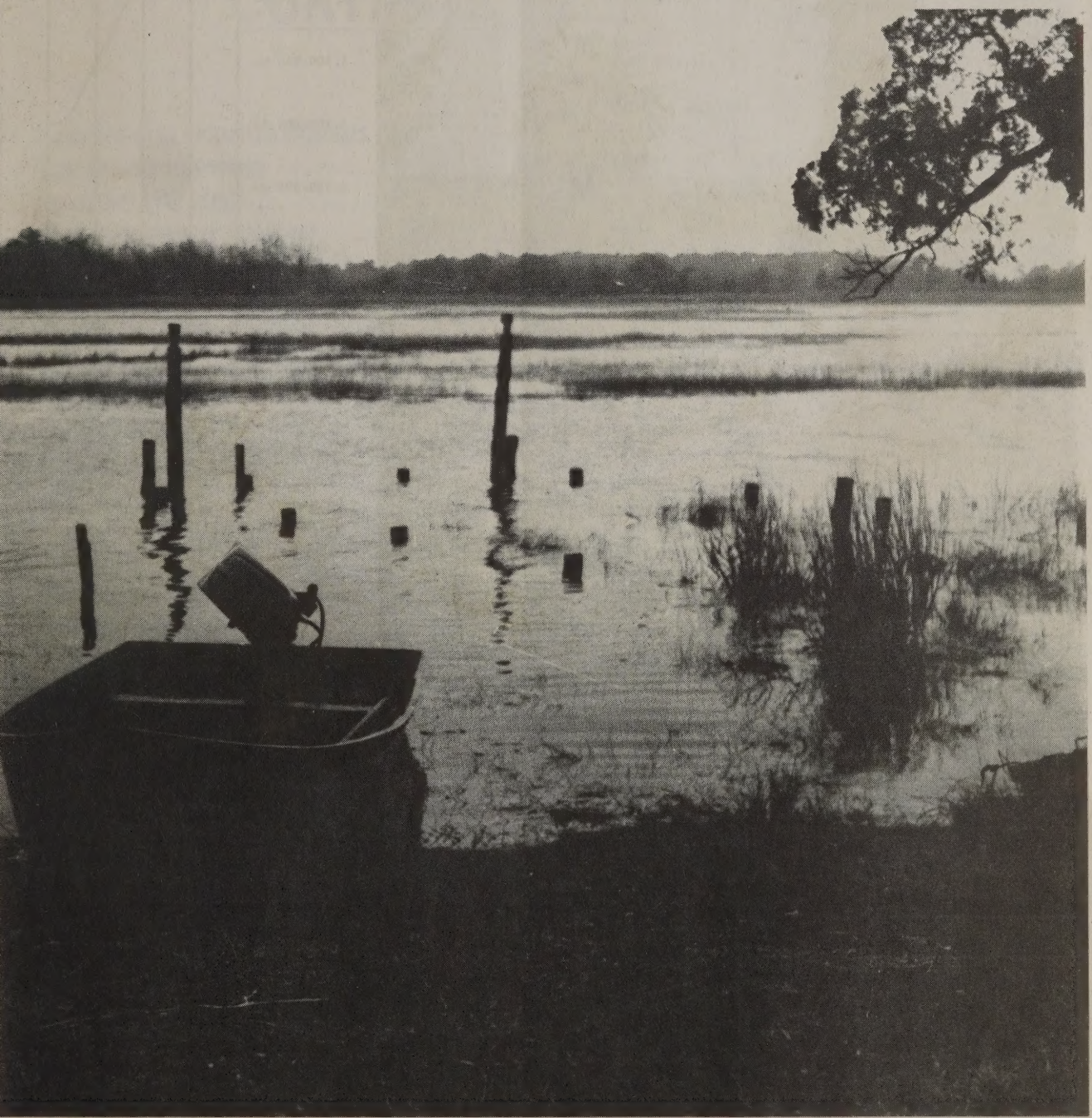


The Long Island FISHERMAN

MAY 10th, ISSUE NO. 17, 1973



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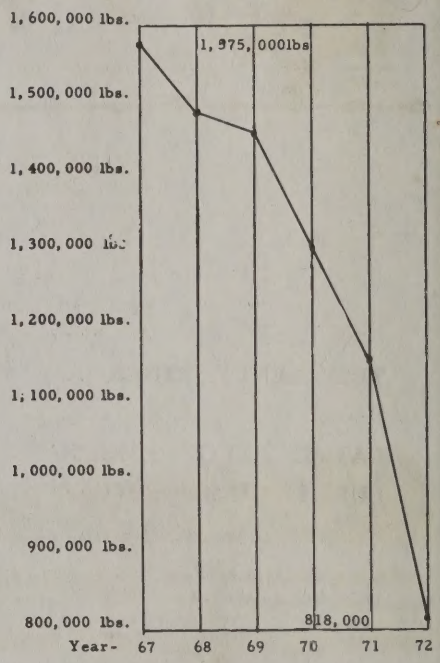
New York Commercial Landings of Striped Bass 1967 - 1972



SAVE OUR STRIPERS reports that based on fisheries statistics of the U.S. Departments of Interior and Commerce there has been an alarming 48% decline in the N.Y. Commercial landings of Striped Bass during the past five (5) years. Continuous yearly records have been maintained since 1937, or for the past 36 years. Only once before, 1952 to 1954, has a decline occurred in consecutive years. During that 3 year period the reduction was slightly less than 30% and landings remained comparatively steady. N.Y.S. biologists assure us that striped bass are abundant. They say the fishery is in a healthy state and claim that there is no need to worry. What do you think?

What kind of a catch did you have last year? For more information, write to: SOS, Box 116, Massapequa Park, N.Y. 11762.

STOP POLLUTION!
Keep Our Waters Clean,

The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE LARGEST WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

VOL. 8, NO. 17 MAY 10, 1973

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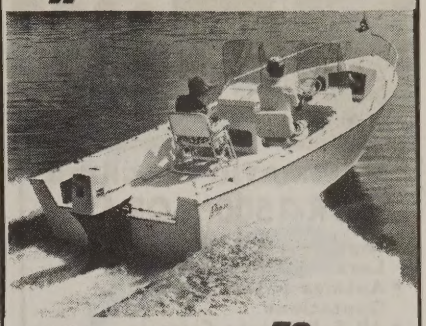
FRONT PAGE PHOTO

Is the fisherman asleep under a tree, or is he cleaning fish just out of camera range? We don't know the answers to those questions, but we do recognize the flood tide on the marsh. Big things should soon begin to happen out there, so our unseen brother better quickly prepare himself.

pro-line



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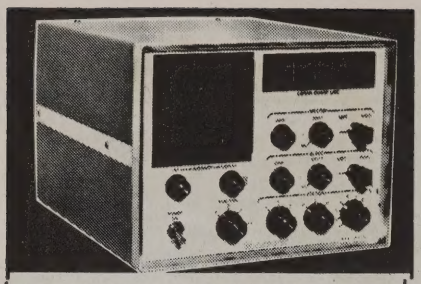

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RESULTS OF 1972 FISH TAGGING PROGRAM

"The best year we ever had in all respects," is how Graham Macmillan described the 1972 fish tagging operations of the American Littoral Society. This multi-thousand member society is dedicated to the study and conservation of aquatic life, with special emphasis on our wetlands areas.

In recognition of the thousands of fishermen now tagging and releasing fish, the Garcia Corporation several years ago established the Garcia Plaque Awards. These plaques are awarded annually to American Littoral Society members in six different categories.

In the Club Category; "The Staten Island Spinning Club won the plaque for "The Club Tagging and Releasing the Most Fish in 1972." The club members released 1165 fish. The Portland Surfcasters from Maine won the plaque for "The Club Having the Most Tagged Fish Recaptured." Tagged principally in Maine, 36 of their fish were captured along the eastern seaboard.

J.R. Jeck of Bricktown, N.J., won the award for "The Angler Whose Fish Traveled The Longest Distance Between Point of Release and Point of Capture." Jeck's tuna tagged off Manasquan, N.J. was recaptured close to Puerto Rico. Weston Eayrs III, of South Portland, Me., with 302 tagged and released fish, won the award for the "Individual Tagging and Releasing the Most Fish." John Wells of Stratford, Conn., won the award for "The Individual Having the Most Tagged Fish Recaptured in 1972." John had 28 tagged fish recaptured in 1972 and in the early part of 1973 his total of recaptured tagged fish will pass the 200 mark.

While some fish have been recaptured again in a matter of weeks and some fish have been recaptured again by the individual who released it originally - - there are fish with Littoral Society tags on their backs which have been swimming around for years. The winner of the plaque for "The Fish the Longest Time Free" is Walter Brigham of Shelter Island Heights, N.Y. Brigham has been tagging fish for years and this year he won the award when a fish he had released six years, three months and eight days earlier was recaptured.

The fish tagging program, started nine years ago by Macmillan, has grown to be the largest amateur fish tagging program in the world. Fish tags numbers are up to 55,000, and Macmillan estimates the Society will distribute close to 9,000 tags during 1973. Tags are sold to members in kits of 5 for $1, the member tagging whatever species of fish interests him. The tag returns are published in the Society's journal, "Underwater Naturalist," distributed to agencies interested in the study of fish migration. Members, as well as the anglers who catch and return tags, are awarded "goldfish" patches and these marks of recognition are worn with pride on hundreds of fishing jackets.

American Littoral Society tags are on fish in Atlantic, Pacific and Caribbean waters, in Mexico and Canada, Guam, Norway and New Zealand, and in many American lakes as well. "Ours is a fun program," continued Macmillan, "which offers our members the thrill of having a tagged fish recaptured perhaps many months later and hundreds of miles distant, and each recapture adds a little more to our knowledge of the movements of fish."

Women and youngsters join with the men in this most interesting experience. "We just had a tag card back indicating a ten year-old lad tagged a seven-foot sailfish off Palm Beach," Macmillan said.

Macmillan added, "These awards are visible evidence of the deep satisfaction that our members have in tagging and releasing fish - - it is truly a most unusual and wonderful experience to hear that a fish which was tagged and released has been caught far from the place of release - it's a world we know too little about - - it's a program all fishermen can enjoy, for they tag any species of fish in which they have an interest."

Interested? Write for membership information to the Society at Sandy Hook, Highlands, New Jersey 07732.

NEWS RELEASE FROM:
Suffolk County Fish & Game Assoc.

ATTACKS PARK POLICY

"A $4-million icebox," is what Robert Howard, President of the Suffolk County Fish and Game Association called the Connetquot River State Park.

Located in Oakdale, the property was purchased with proceeds of the 1966 New York State Recreational

Bond Issue. The park has never been opened to the public, instead being leased back to its original owners. A bill currently pending before the State Legislature would continue the lease-back for another 10 years.

"Allegedly the State has no funds to develop or administer the area. This is inconceivable," said Howard. "It is simply unbelievable that the present State administration could be able to finance a more than half-billion dollar bridge-highway complex . . . boasting that it can do so without a penny of federal aid; maintain a more than quarter million dollar political relations machine; recommend a $10 thousand salary increase for a 4-month legislature and still maintain that it cannot open a prime recreational area which has already been paid for. Why, the p.r. campaign mounted by the M.T.A. for the Stewart Airport expansion alone cost more money than would be required to administer the park.

"The property rightfully belongs to all the people of the State," Howard continued. "It has been paid for with four million tax dollars. It is, in its present form, suitable for many forms of passive recreation without need for large expenditures . . . and without compromise of its integrity. It contains one of the finest trout streams on Long Island . . . in fact, the Island's only remaining unspoiled river.

"One can only wonder aloud whether it is the function of the State to serve the citizens or vice versa. How many more steel and concrete monuments must be built in honor of our political deities before those who pay the costs are given something?" Howard concluded.

L.I. ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL NEWS

The Long Island Environmental Council, in their newsletter of April 2, 1973, reported that "Everyone is confused and/or encouraged by the Department of the Interior's statement on the integrity of the National Wildlife Refuge. Some people say this is the final demise of the bridge; others recognize that this is the first of a series of negotiations that are taking place about the Department's point of view. LIEC has made a statement to the press, praising the Department for standing firm, and has written a letter to Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton. Letters from individuals would be very useful. Pressure on Secretary Morton to show widespread interest across Long Island and the region about the Department's decision would be helpful in the Internal Departmental negotiations. The Governor of New York will undoubtedly request, if he has not already done so, that this decision by the Department be reviewed. The concerned people must make their wishes known also."

BAY SHORE MAKO TOURNEY

Boats from at least five states will be competing again in the 12th Annual Bay Shore Mako Tournament June 30 and July 1. This popular tourney, probably the largest of its kind on the East coast, is limited to 150 boats. But some 800 to 1000 fishermen will be on board to try to hook that big one.

Individual and club entries from Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and New Jersey, as well as New York, will compete in three prize divisions: Mako, Other Shark (Blue, Ducky, etc.) and Women's. Prizes are mainly fishing tackle, but the real prize is that monster Mako still lurking out there in the Atlantic who can top the 500-plus-pounds of the largest Mako ever weighed in here - - back in the 60's when the BSMT first got underway.

The most sharks brought in occurred about 5 years ago, when the dock at the Bay Shore Marina sagged under the weight of approximately 37 TONS of fish. More than 1000 sharks were landed. The largest tourney shark ever caught was a 600-plus-pound Dusky.

The BSMT was founded in 1961 by Charles Entenmann of Bay Shore. It has attracted not only the active sportsman, but hundreds of spectators at the two-day weigh-ins. And many hardy souls are on the dock both days by 6 AM to see the roaring take-off at the sound of the starting gun - - a sight to be seen!

There is great scientific interest in this event. For instance, an eager research participant each year is the Narragansett (Rhode Island) Marine Game Fish Laboratory, in the person of Fishery Biologist Jack Casey. Requests for permission to participate have also been received from such institutions as the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, whose primary interest was the chance to take blood samples from pregnant and unborn sharks.

For further information contact: Bay Shore Tuna Club, 87 Ocean Avenue, Bay Shore, N.Y. 11706.

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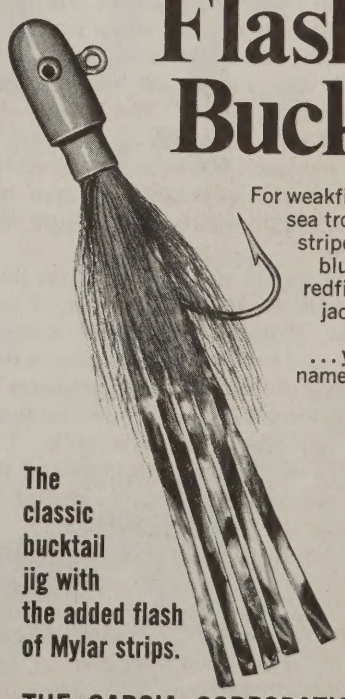

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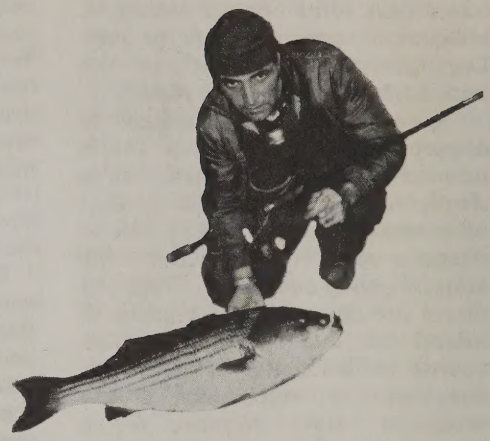
CASTING FOR SPRING STRIPERS



by Mickey Chiarenza

During the month of April, fishing with live worms attracts more stripers than artificials do, since the waters are still cold and little bait can be found along the bottom. As the waters begin to warm up, spearing and sand eels appear and by the end of April or the first week in May it's casting for stripers with lures again.

The crack angler will have his gear ready, having worked on it during the winter months. All he waits for now is the right tide to coincide with dusk or daybreak and he's off. The gear you will need for casting to spring stripers from a beach isn't really much. A seven to nine-foot spinning rod with light to medium action for whipping out small, light lures, and a reel filled with 12 pound test monofilament to match the rod is all you'll need. Remember, new line must be "rolled-off" the spool as you wind it onto your reel, otherwise you'll twist it. A good pair of waders, or even hip boots, will do where there is little surf action.

You should also have a canvas plug bag with a shoulder strap or, if you prefer, a pistol belt of the webbed army type to strap around your waist. The bag should have compartments to separate the selection of lures (notice I did not say "assortment"). The bottom of the compartments and the bag must both have holes drilled or cut out for water drainage.

If you're optimistic, carry a nylon fish-stringer attached to your belt, and a miner's-type headlamp that hangs around your neck. The lamp's battery case is attached to your trouser belt and kept under your parka, as is the wire, to keep it from getting in the way or becoming exposed to the elements. Incidently - don't forget that hood for those miserable spring showers.

If you never seem able to remember when and where the fish were and what lures were hot last year, or on previous fishing trips, keep these three things in your mind and you can start off fresh and sound: TIME; TIDE; BAIT. The TIME for early spring stripers is at daybreak and dusk, with some action occurring during quiet days. As waters warm and there is more activity on the water close to the beaches during the day, the prime times will be at dusk, during the night, and at daybreak. The transition occurs sometime in May, depending upon the weather. During early spring, casting with artificials can be futile after about an hour after sundown. This same situation also occurs in late fall. Tide is connected to time in that the best time to fish would be an hour before flood to one and a half hours after high water, at which point it will really begin to rip in the inlets. The last hour of an outgoing tide can be beneficial because all the bait is concentrated in the deepest parts of the channels or drop-offs and bass will be feeding on it in earnest. At this time the tide will have slowed again.

What the bass are feeding on is the most important part of the entire episode, for all the times, tides and casts you can make aren't going to put one fish on your stringer if you can't match that bait with a lure that will convince them to strike! Bait that will be found in early spring is small: sea worms; spearing; sand eels, and whatever else might be around. For the most part the fish will be schoolies under 12 pounds, since the larger fish will still be on the spawning grounds. If a large bass is encountered in early spring it will generally be a winter-over fish from a nearby river or power plant.

Remember, too, that different localities might harbor different baits. For example, in the upper regions of the Hudson River certain lures and colors would attract bass, whereas in the Sound different ones might be more effective. But one thing is certain: bass prefer small baits, which means "use small lures." Articles on catching stripers in the fall will be chock-full of information for that season, describing long heavy surf rods, large lures, heavier line, etcetera, so the neophyte will be busy as a bee all winter gathering this gear. He will be armed to the teeth by May 1st, and charge down to the beach like General Patton invading a boyscout jamboree!! Disappointed and outfished, he will learn a bitter lesson the hard way.

Keep your lures small and light in coloration, hence light tackle to launch them off effectively. Also preferred are lures that will swim slowly since the waters are the coldest they will be for the entire season.

Early bluefish respond in much the same manner and they also will be attracted to small lures in lighter colors. The productive colors for early spring casting are white, chrome, amber, pink, and the darkest of the lot, grey. Grey will work best during the twilight hours just before daybreak, and just after sundown. Of course there is always an exception to the rule, but don't let this confuse you. Keep to the most productive methods for the time at hand and experiment occasionally, as the season progresses, with larger lures and different colors. I may add that the springtime sizes and colors I have mentioned will be

productive throughout the entire season, and will continue to catch not only school bass but other species as well.

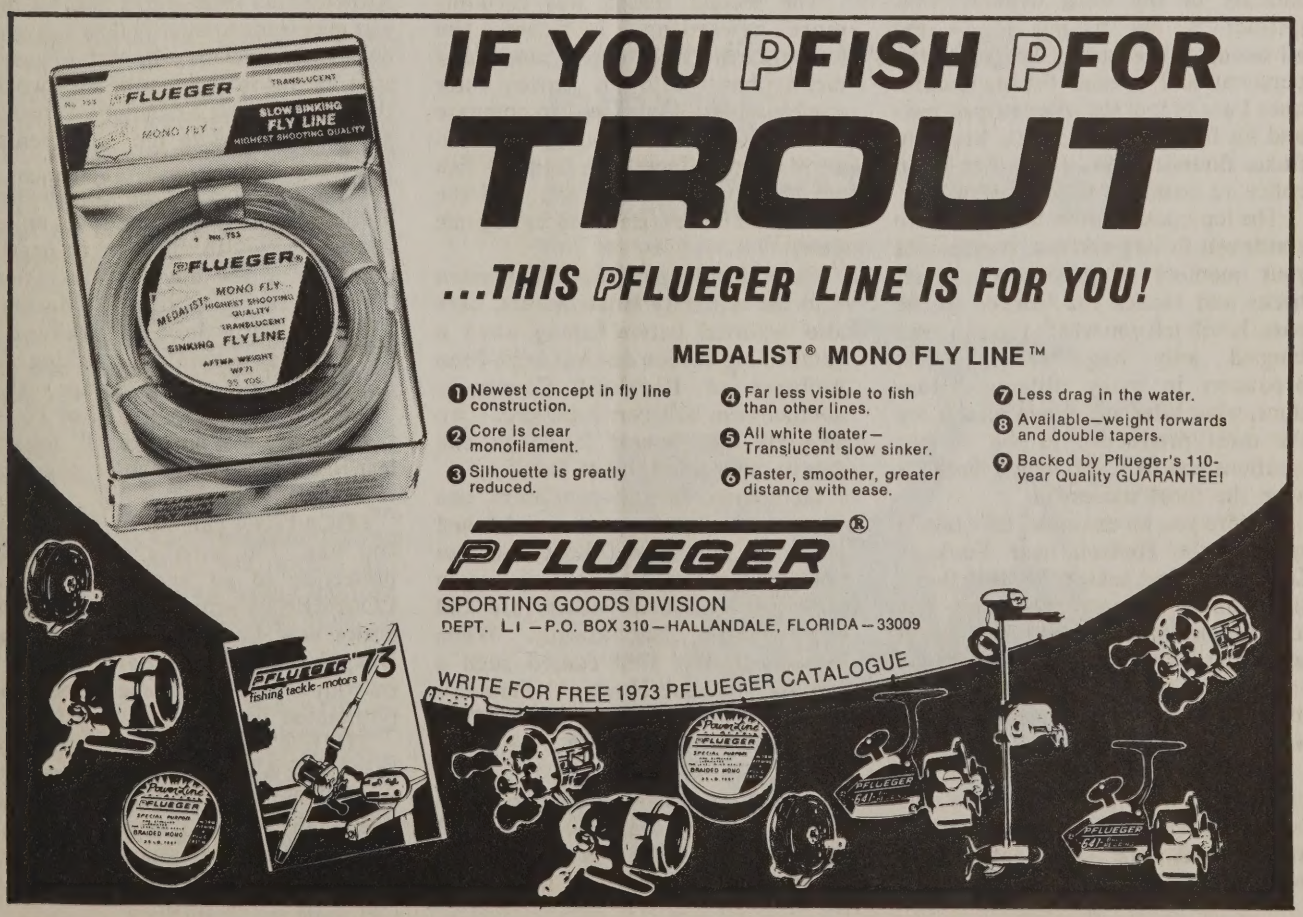
The actual lures that are productive for springtime striper casting are the small Tri-Fin Whiptails (in ½ and ¾ oz. - white or in some areas yellow), the Tri-Fin Eel Worms (¾ oz. and 1 oz. - amber, red or grey), the Garcia Eel-et (standard grey, 9/16 oz.), and the Alou Eelee. Small chromed floating plugs are effective in shallow water at dusk, but difficult to cast during a breeze. All of the above mentioned lures have built-in action and will catch fish by day as well as night.

The Hopkins No-Eql and other chromed metal jigs are primarily daytime lures since their flash is the attraction rather than action. Bucktails with pork rind attached have been standard springtime lures but must be used where there is a good current or rip to get some action at a slow retrieve. Words of caution must be given here on bucktails: Unless you have used them before and mastered the technique to bring one to life effectively, stick to the built-in action types and experiment later on in the season. It takes a skilled hand and strong arm to "work the rod" and bounce the lure in such a way that the fish will take it.

"Places to fish" is the easiest part; read the local fishing reports for your area to get some clues, but don't wait to see some fisherman holding up a string of bass on these pages before you will go out. Get out there and you can be that guy. Become more than familiar with your local grounds, take a look at them at low water and scout around a little. If you fish different tides, observe everything, ask questions, circulate with fellow anglers and exchange gossip; everyone will be the wiser and find fish more often. Stripers like rocky areas, inlets, jetties, rock strewn beaches and coves and marsh areas, especially if a channel swings in or is nearby. Try fishing piers, pilings, bridges and abutments; generally anywhere you will find blackfish (tautog) you will find bass. Sometimes just a little point of land extending out from a plain beach can indicate a sandbar that extends out in the water where baitfish are harbored. One very effective method I used for learning North shore hot spots is to walk a few yards, stop, cast and retrieve, sometimes for more than a mile, and repeat it on the way back. On another evening I will fish in the opposite direction.

When a fish is caught look around for some landmarks to use as a guide for the next time. I think anglers will be far better off by knowing their local grounds intimately rather than by roaring off all over the island on the tail-end of a hot report.

To put all this information into a nutshell, I would say to fish daybreak or dusk (in conjunction with high tide), keep your lures small and light in color, swim them slowly and steadily. Experiment with different designs and colors until you connect, and switch over to darker colors during the twilight or nighttime hours. Observe the action of your lures, run them from side to side in front of you and learn both their capabilities as swimmers and their working range (how fast or how slow they will swim). Use your slowest swimmers for night fishing. When casting into rips and currents adjust your retrieve accordingly; you can sometimes feel the pulsations of that lure working for you. As the currents pick up speed, slow down more or put on a heavier model - remember to keep it low and slow for spring striper casting. (Some nutshell!)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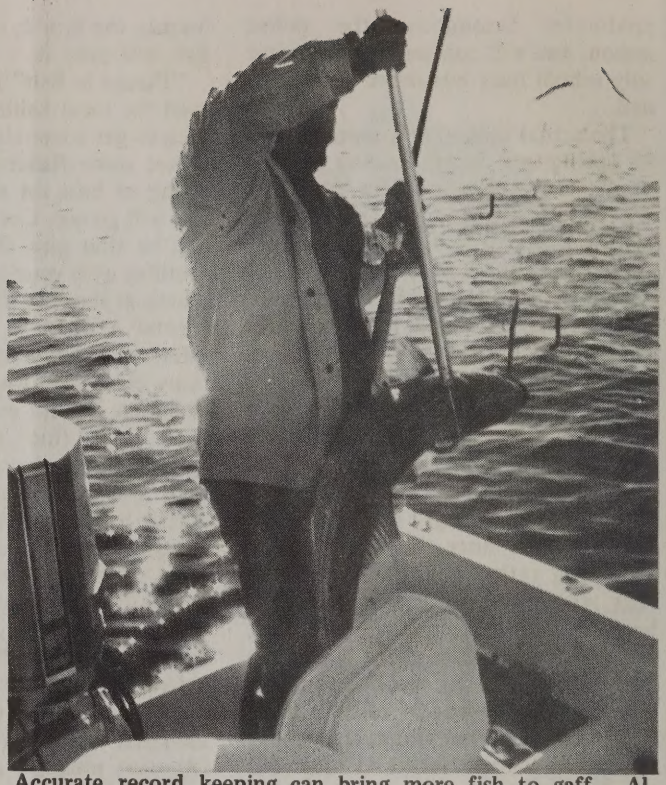
THE SILENT PARTNER

by Pete Barrett



Accurate record keeping can bring more fish to gaff. Al Ristori gaffs a 25 pounder off Monomoy Island, Massachusetts.

Record keeping can improve your fishing.

My closest fishing partner never casts a lure, never catches a single fish and never, but never, leaves the sanctity of my desk drawer. This partner is my fishing log - the all-seeing, all recording keeper of the personal and special fishing techniques I use to fool the wiley striped bass and his friends the weakfish, bluefish, fluke, flounder and others that I can entice to strike at Bait or plug.

The log book is an invaluable aid to continued fishing success. It refreshes your memory so you won't forget tricks and tactics you learned in the past. It will tell you which lures in your tangled jetty bag are the best producers in many different situations; what tides and moon phases are the most productive in the various locations you fish, and which methods were the most successful.

To give you an example, let's take a spot on the Hudson near Yonkers. During the first season I fished there, the number of successful days was low; I took stripers on only two out of seven attempts. Before the next season came around, I studied the log and found some interesting information which increased my success.

I learned that low slack water and just before high slack were the two best tide periods. If the tides occurred at daybreak, the combination was even better. Although I had fished many lures, the fish-getters proved to be pencil poppers and bucktails in chrome, white or yellow.

The second season was certainly more rewarding. I fished the log-indicated best tides, times and moon phases with the proven color combinations of lures and to compare the results was encouraging. My fish per day ratio increased from ½ fish per trip to 1¾ fish per trip, and the number of fishless days was cut by one third.

Other log-keepers, like Al Fennen who fishes Sandy Hook waters, have also reported better fishing when a detailed log of each day was kept. John Ambrose of Rockland County is another firm believer: John says, "An accurate and honest log book can double anyone's take of fish."

Of course, fishing conditions can change to wreck your established patterns, but a well-kept log can quickly and methodically put you back into fish while others are still experimenting haphazardly. When bunker dunkin' first caused such a sensation off the Hook, Al Fennon's log helped him to be among the first to score consistently with the new method.

Over a six-year period since I first started keeping accurate records, I have streamlined the bookkeeping to a point where I spend little time doing the actual recording. I printed a supply of sheets so that the paper work now consists of filling-in the blanks. Although my form works well for me, you may want to modify it to suit your own needs. Trollers may wish to have a spot for recording depths and would thus include it as a category. I usually add these extras in the "comments" section.

Obviously there is no clarification needed for entering the date, unless you are fishing in the same or nearby areas for a few days in succession, such as during a trip to Martha's Vineyard over a three-day weekend. I log each day separately, marking the upper right corner of each page with a "1 of 3" for the first day, "2 of 3" for the second day and "3 of 3" for the last. I then know the three pages go together.

LOCATION can be as specific as you like. I'm usually very general, preferring to go into detail in the COMMENTS section. If I fished three jetties near Long Branch, then Long Branch is the location. Each individual jetty will be mentioned and pinpointed under "comments."

TIME is important. It isn't enough to indicate AM or PM. The exact hour can tell you when to fish a particular tide. Many times I'll record daybreak as an additional reference, since to me this is one of those magical time

periods that triggers a flurry of action.

TIDE should be more than simply high or low, incoming or outgoing. Qualify it by; last half of outgoing, beginning of incoming, or something to provide a more specific reference. Comparing tide action to time of day gives more information to put fish in the box.

Talks with Al Reinfelder convinced me to pay more attention to moon phases and the effect they have on fishing conditions. Some locations are more productive during a full moon phase while others are better on the new moon phase, or some phase in between. Increased catches can also be yours by paying attention to the moon factor.

Rainy and sunny days effect fishing, so it pays to record WEATHER conditions. Clear and sunny, windy and rainy, overcast, cloudy and hot all describe the weather. Some anglers may wish to record barometer readings because a falling barometer can help predict rain and storms that could spell better or worse fishing.

One of the most vital fishing conditions is WIND, and its direction. The northwester that brings bait to the beaches of New Jersey can ruin fishing at another location. If the wind changes during the course of a day record this, too.

Surface TEMPERATURE doesn't seem to have much effect on the ups and downs of fishing (no doubt someone can now prove me wrong!!), but I record it to give a better idea of what the weather was on each day. Temperature in conjunction with barometer readings can help predict fishing possibilities for a few days ahead. Most important, I look for extreme variations of temperature from one day to the next.

WATER CONDITIONS can be muddy, choppy, clear, glassy smooth or a host of other descriptions that can influence the day's fishing. As an example, using a swimmer may lead to poor results when the waters are cloudy, but fishing may improve tremendously when the lure is changed to a popper.

WATER TEMPERATURE can be critical to good fishing. Each year in Croton Bay on the Hudson, the stripers revive from their comatose state when the water reaches the low 50's. Locals keep close tabs on the spring water and seem to come out of the wood work when the thermometer

Continued on Page 16

DATE April 30, 1972 LOCATION Croton Bay-Hudson River

TIME 6AM – 11AM TIDE Low Slack To High MOON 2 After Full

WEATHER Clear & Sunny WIND SW TEMP 46°-55°

WATER CONDITION Calm – Clear WATER TEMP 46°

FISHING METHOD Trolling Bucktails – Drift Casting Mer-Mers

	ROD	REEL	LINE TEST & TYPE
1-	B501 Garcia	Mitchell 408	4/6 Platyl
2-	2512 Garcia	Mitchell 410	10/6 Platyl
3-			
4-			

COMMENTS Launched Senesqua Beach At Low Slack – Trolled Yellow Bucktails Along Croton Point – Beginning Of Incoming Trolled Off Cranbuckie Sand Bar For 1 Striper – Drift Casting From 8AM – 9:30 AM From Cranbuckie To Penn Central Bridge At Deep Hole For 2 Stripers – Moved Up Into Croton River Casting Below RT 9 Bridge Took Best Of Day @ 16/6 3oz.

2 Bass On Yellow 1/4 oz Bucktail Trolled On Long Line

Follows On Yellow Back Rebel 5" But Hook Up Only On Rebel & Mer-Mer Blue Backs

FISH TAKEN:

	SPECIES	LENGTH	GIRTH	POUNDS	TAG #	LURE	STOMACH CONTENTS
1-	Striper	15"		1 1/2	33269	Yellow Bucktail 1/4oz	
2-	Striper	23"		3/6s	33290	Yellow Bucktail 1/4oz	
3-	Striper	25"		4 4/6s	33291	Silver/Blue Mer-Mer 5"	
4-	Striper	30"		16/6s 3oz	—	Herring & 1 Sheel	
5-							

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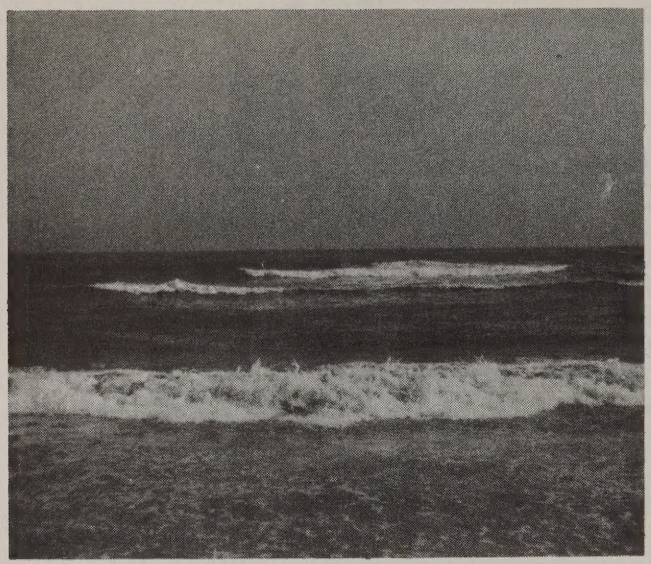
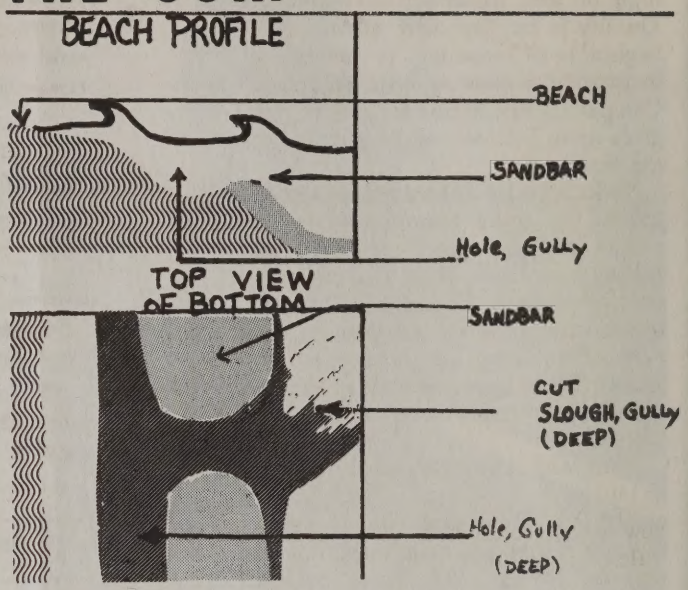
READING THE SURF





by FRANK BERRAFATO

The angler who fishes the fringes of the sea invades a constantly changing sandy frontier. A sandy beach is an area of endless, rhythmic tidal advances and retreats, where an ebbing tide exposes a sandy world to wind, rain, intense heat and cold. The incoming tidal stage once again creates a water world alive with sand moles, calico crabs, sea worms, sand eels, pipefish, shrimp and clams - a variety of marine creatures crawling out of their underground burrows and hiding places and swept about by the ocean currents. The holes, sloughs, cuts and gullies become passageways and traps for the various baitfish and marine life, creating a situation which invites such hungry predators as striped bass, bluefish and weakfish.

The surfcaster who threads Long Island's littoral areas must learn how to read the surf and familiarize himself with the clues which indicate deep water areas, the presence of baitfish, and the amount of weeds or dirt in the surf. For example, one good idea is to look through the tops of the waves as they make up or just before they break on the beach. This will expose even the semi-transparent baitfish which are outlined against the sky background. Also, if the water is clean and clear, the edges of the waves will permit the sunlight to pass through them, revealing any dirt or weeds.

Many times such factors are important in deciding what type of plug or lure to use. When fishing the surf at Fire Island, this writer has found that when there are a lot of weeds and dirt in the surf, a large shiny lure will draw more strikes than a dull one. If the water is too clear, it is usually harder to fool a gamefish. It is also important to be aware of the food which is present, since the plug or lure selection should resemble as closely as possible the baitfish which are present in the surf at that time.

The color of the water often will indicate its depth. The principle involved is simple: A sandy bottom will show through more readily in shallow water, therefore light green water indicates a shallow spot. Dark blue or dark green water is usually found over the deeper holes, sloughs and gullies. If the water is rough the shallow areas will have white water when the waves break over them.

The action of the waves is revealing. Ground swells break into white water when they pass over the shallows. Then they flatten out and lose their foaming crest when they reach the deep places, and perhaps break once again near the shore. This type of wave action would indicate an offshore sandbar with deep water in close, an excellent spot during the incoming tidal stage.

These offshore sandbars will have breaks in them, where water washes in and out of the deep spots close to shore. Fish route through these sloughs or gullies as they pass into or out of the deep inshore water. On the outgoing tidal stage, gamefish will often congregate on the outer end of the slough to feed on baitfish being carried out.

Usually it is difficult for the beginner to locate such spots by the action of the waves. Theoretically, sloughs are recognized by the indentation the undertows in them make in incoming waves, After the wave breaks, a line of foam will mark the location of the slough. In some areas, such as Great Kills Park, Staten Island, the sloughs (called "canals" in this area) can be recognized by the color of the water - - deep blue strips cutting through large light green areas.

The forces of erosion are constantly at work. Waves, storms and currents continually keep the sands moving. Efforts to halt erosion, such as the building of jetty structures, the piling of Christmas trees on the beaches, and the transferral of sand from other areas have met with only minimal success. Local conditions change from year to year. and the angler who fishes the fringe of the sea must constantly be aware of the shifting sands.

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CATSKILL TROUT FISHING

PART II: WHERE AND WHEN

by Leonard S. Baum

Where do you fish and when? This depends on whether you prefer to fish with bait or flies, and whether you are seeking big fish or plenty of lively, smaller ones. Fishing is excellent from the beginning to the end of the season and the key seems to be the height and clarity of the water. I have had good fly fishing on April 3 when the Chichester was low and clear, and horrible fly fishing during the height of the season under extremely high or low water conditions. As a general rule, bait and spin fishermen will do best in the feeder streams through early May, and in the main stream throughout the season. Fly-fishermen will do best beginning at the end of April. In the early season I would fish flies above Shandaken on the upper Esopus or above the town of Chichester on the Chichester, and well upstream on the Woodland Valley. Move downstream as the water warms and clears. I usually restrict my fly fishing to the upper Esopus and the tributaries through almost the end of June. This is because the tributaries have the heaviest hatches of flies, are easier to fish, and produce some exceptionally fine fish when good fly hatches are in progress. Around Memorial Day, however, there is excellent fly fishing in the main stream when the water is not high or off color.

Also, between Memorial Day and early July, and sometimes in late September, there is some fabulous fishing for rainbows averaging 16-20" between the Chimney Hole and where the Esopus glides into the Ashokan Reservoir. This fishing is sporadic, good some years and dead other years. Also, the fly fishing is unpredictable. You get to the Chimney Hole by parking your car on the west side of the Five Arch Bridge at Boiceville and then walking a few miles south through the woods, along a well defined path. Most people fish the Chimney Hole from the east bank, which means that you have to cross a railroad tressel that spans the Esopus a little over a mile south of the Five Arch Bridge. (Distances are approximate; I never measured them!) The rainbows usually strike salmon eggs or spinners and sometimes flies in the morning, and occasionally will respond to flies in the evening. The fly fishing seems to be best about 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. around Memorial Day and gets progressively later into dark in early July. I would use a large weighted Zug Bug or March Brown nymph in the morning around the fast riffles entering the Chimney Hole, and the same flies, or dry flies that "match the hatch" in the evening. The evening fishing is good on both banks of the Chimney Hole and can be especially good in the swift, flat glides about one-quarter mile below the Chimney Hole. Exercise extreme caution wading in this area! Felt sole waders are essential; the water is cold, deep and powerful. Are six or more huge rainbow rising simultaneously to dries, all within casting range, worth the risk? You answer that.

What are the best spots on the main stream? I really don't think there are any, although you may find that hard to believe. Big fish show up regularly from just about every large pool or deep run. Small fish occupy just about every large pool or deep run. Small fish occupy just about every stretch of the stream. My favorite areas change each year: You might try the riffles and runs about one-half mile downstream of the iron bridge at Cold Brook; the runs on the east bank of the stream above Cold Brook; the large pools behind the cemetary about 1½ miles below Mount Tremper; the runs and pools about one-half mile below the new bridge at Mount Tremper; both forks of the stream where it splits behind the Moulin Motel about two miles north of Phoenicia; the large pools where the stream meets again (please ask permission at the Moulin; you will not be refused), and any other good looking water not already occupied by other angling hopefuls. I prefer avoiding heavily fished areas right

Continued on Page 17

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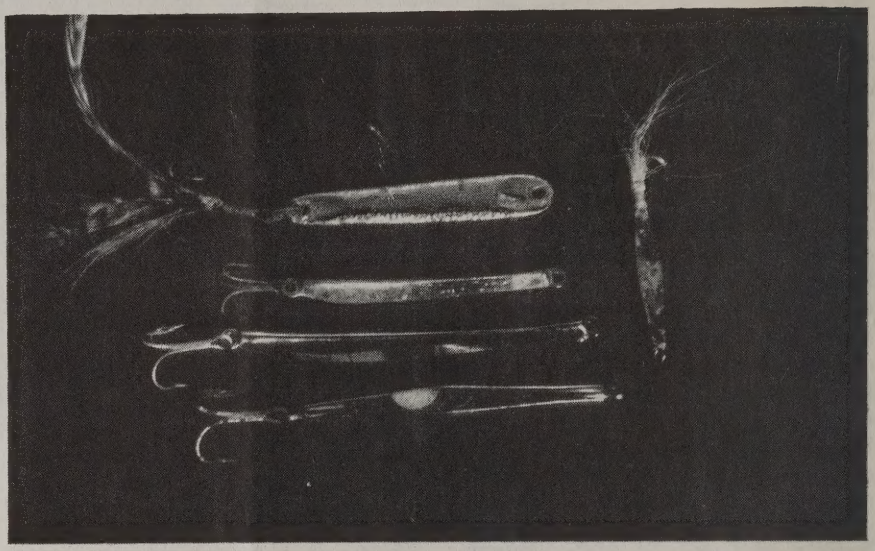
LURE FISHING FOR WEAKFISH

by Ron Onorato

There is nothing quite like the hit of a weakfish on an artificial lure. Unlike the bluefish that smashes the lure when it hits, the weak takes a lure in a manner similar to that of a striper, and the hit is followed by a powerful surge for freedom. It is this sporting attribute that makes the weakfish so popular among the scores of light tacklers that seek this fish.

Weakfish will take many lures ranging from big plugs meant for bass to tiny streamer flies used for inland trout fishing; virtually all methods of casting will take them. That boil after a streamer is heaven to some anglers, while to others the sound of 4 pound test line buzzing off the reel is music to their ears. Whatever way he is taken, there is nothing quite like a weakfish on an artificial.



An assortment of jigs and the ever-popular Hopkins No-Eql.

Spinning tackle has been the most popular on the weakfish scene for the past several years. Combinations ranging from ultra-light to medium action in weight get the nods of the anglers. A 5½ to 6-foot light action spinning rod and matching reel of 6 pound test monofilament would qualify as a light rig capable of handling lures in the ¼ to ½ ounce range. The next outfit consists of a medium action rod of 6½ to 7 foot length and matching reel of 8 pound line. This outfit would serve well to cast the ½ to ¾ ounce lures that are most frequently used. The workhorse of the bunch would be a 7½ to 9 foot medium action two-handed rod and matching reel of 12 or 15 pound test line. This outfit handles the heavier lures that are sometimes needed, which may weigh between ¾ to 1½ ounces.

On certain occasions, weakfish act in a manner similar to their fresh water cousins and are susceptible to well-fished streamers or wet flies. There is nothing quite like the scene of seeing 3 or 4 pound weaks swirling and boiling on a quiet marsh creek. It is during such times that the angler can break out the fly rod and have a ball. Such patterns as the Woolfie Shrimp and the Rhode Island Grass Shrimp are especially effective, as are such basic designs as bucktail streamers with mylar, and cork popping bugs.

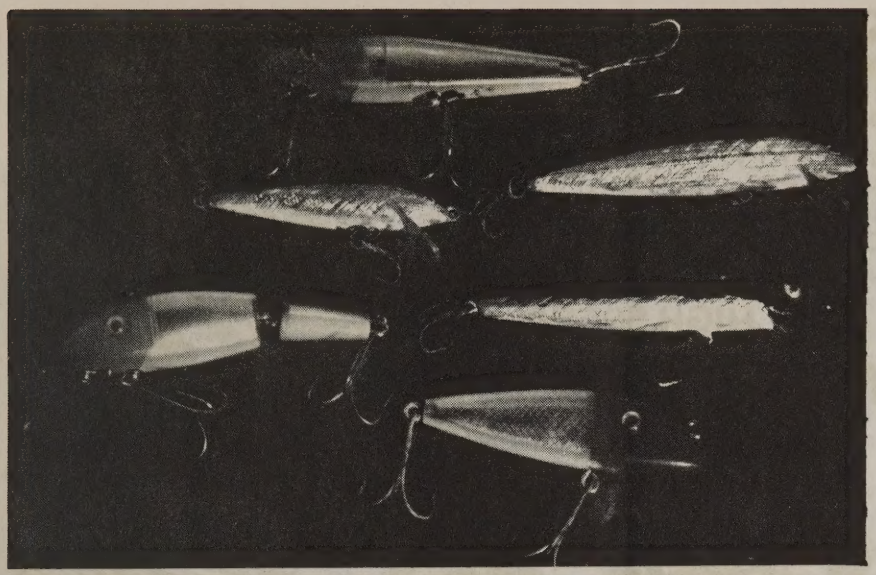
The type of artificial lure to use will depend upon several factors such as available bait, the size of fish being sought, the depth at which the fish are feeding, and the current. There are various types of plugs or jigs that can be fished on the surface, at intermediate depths and on the bottom. A description of the different lures available and the manner in which they can be fished would be helpful to the angler planning to use them.

Perhaps the most effective lure for weakfish on both North and South shores is the plastic shrimp. The Bagley "Salty Dog" and the Tout shrimp were devastating on weaks last year. These lures consist of a regular lead head with a tail section made of plastic; the whole idea of this lure was to resemble a shrimp. Whatever they were made to imitate, the weaks find them irresistable. The jigs are made in weights ranging from ½ ounce up to 2 ounces, with the most popular size being the ½ ounce model. Colors in which they can be obtained range the spectrum, with transparent, white, root beer, green, yellow, and pink being the most popular.

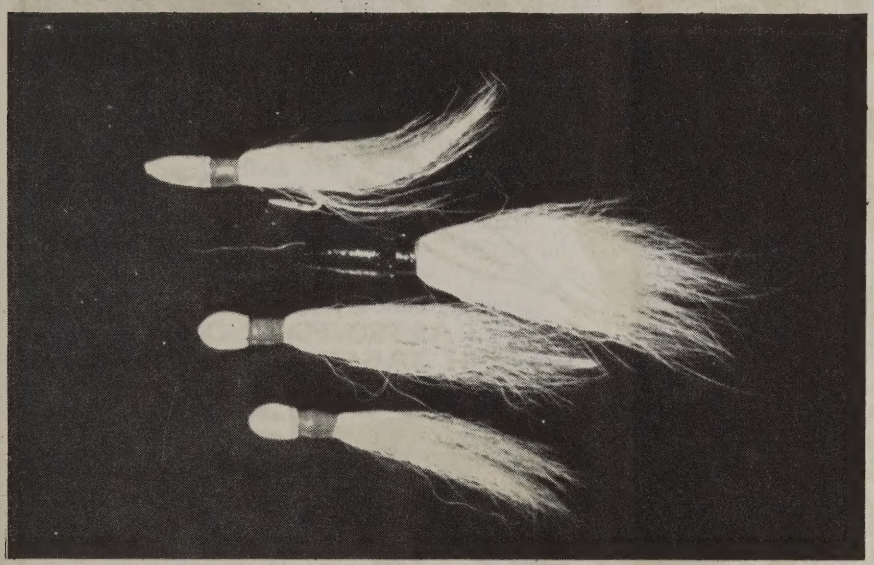
The ordinary bucktail jig is still the favorite among many of the old-timers along the waterfront. Ranging in weights from 3/8 oz. to over one ounce, the bucktail is still a very effective weapon. The best colors are white or yellow, with several strips of shiny mylar added to give the jig an extra flash. Some anglers like to sweeten their bucktails with a strip of porkrind or squid.

Both the plastic shrimp and the bucktail jig are fished in a similar manner. The angler casts the jig into the water and lets it settle to the bottom. A number of various retrieves can be used, with the straight retrieve the best according to many anglers. Sometimes the jig is bounced on the bottom during the retrieve, and at other times the angler may have to impart a little rod action to the jig to give it an erratic motion. Experimenting with various types of retrieves will determine which one is the best to use.

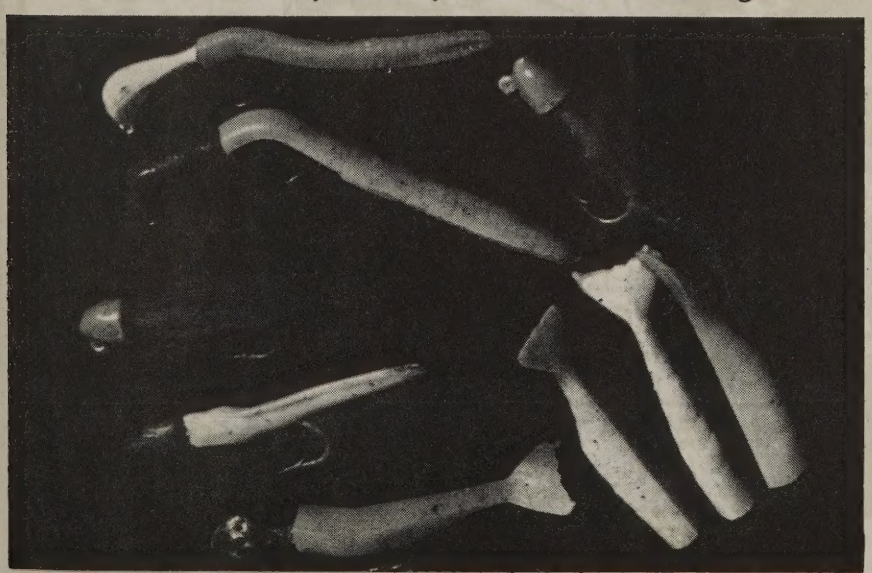
Shiny metal lures compose another useful group that can be successfully used with squet. Once again, the lighter weights, between ½ oz. and ¾ oz., generally tend to be more effective. The Acme Kastmaster and the Hopkins lures are among the best in this class. These small attractors look like sand eels or silversides that are flashing through the water. They can be worked at all levels by varying the gate of retrieve: If you want the lure near the bottom, let it settle and then retrieve slowly. If the fish are on



Basic plugs for weakfish are "Rebels" and various types of "Mirro-Lures."



The old stand-bys for many kinds of fish: Bucktail Jigs.



Leadheads with assorted kinds of plastic tails are the newest, hottest lures.

top, then a rapid retrieve would be appropriate.

Spoons and wobblers can be deadly on weaks. Since these lures are thin and difficult to cast, they can be trolled very, very slowly with excellent success. The spoons should be a little on the heavy side since they will for the most part be fished deep. Daredevil spoons, Johnson's Sprite, or any type spoon in the ¾ to 1½ ounce range should be good. A strip of porkrind added to the spoon will make it that much more effective at times. Any light, fresh water spoons or wobblers can also be used: Al's Goldfish and Skipjack minnow are two particularly effective wobblers that can be cast as well as trolled. When fishing a spoon, try a slow retrieve first.

One great weakfish lure that is still with us is the diamond jig, which comes in weights varying from ½ to 3 ounces. The smaller models are armed with a single hook, while the heavier models come equipped with trebles. The biggest assets of diamond jigs are that they sink rapidly, and stay close to the bottom. The diamond jig is most effective when used in deep water where the fish are feeding deep. Under these conditions the best way to fish the jig is to simply lower it to the bottom and raise it a foot or so, then lift and drop it sharply. A strip of porkrind makes the lure more effective; you must experiment.

Weakfish are suckers for a well-worked plug; they will readily strike at a number of them. The most popular plugs seem to be the Rebel plug in all sizes and weights. Ranging from 3" up to 5½", these silversided lures look more like the real thing than do the live baits. Fish these plugs so that they appear to be injured and crippled, and floundering on or near the surface. Mirro-Lures are effective plugs, but a lot of rod manipulation must go into properly fishing them. Actually, many small lures can be used for weaks. One of my favorite techniques is to use a popper-dropper combination. The popper attracts the fish and when it sees the bucktail jig trailing behind it, the fish grabs hold. This type of rig is easy to make. Take any old popping plug and tie a two-foot length of 20 pound leader material to the eye. Attach a small bucktail jig to the free end of the leader. And that's it!

Although some claim weakfish is a delicious fish, I prefer to let most of mine go since I do not care for them. If

Continued on Page 17

OFFSHORE REPORTS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE TWO-POUND TORPEDO SHAPED MACKEREL

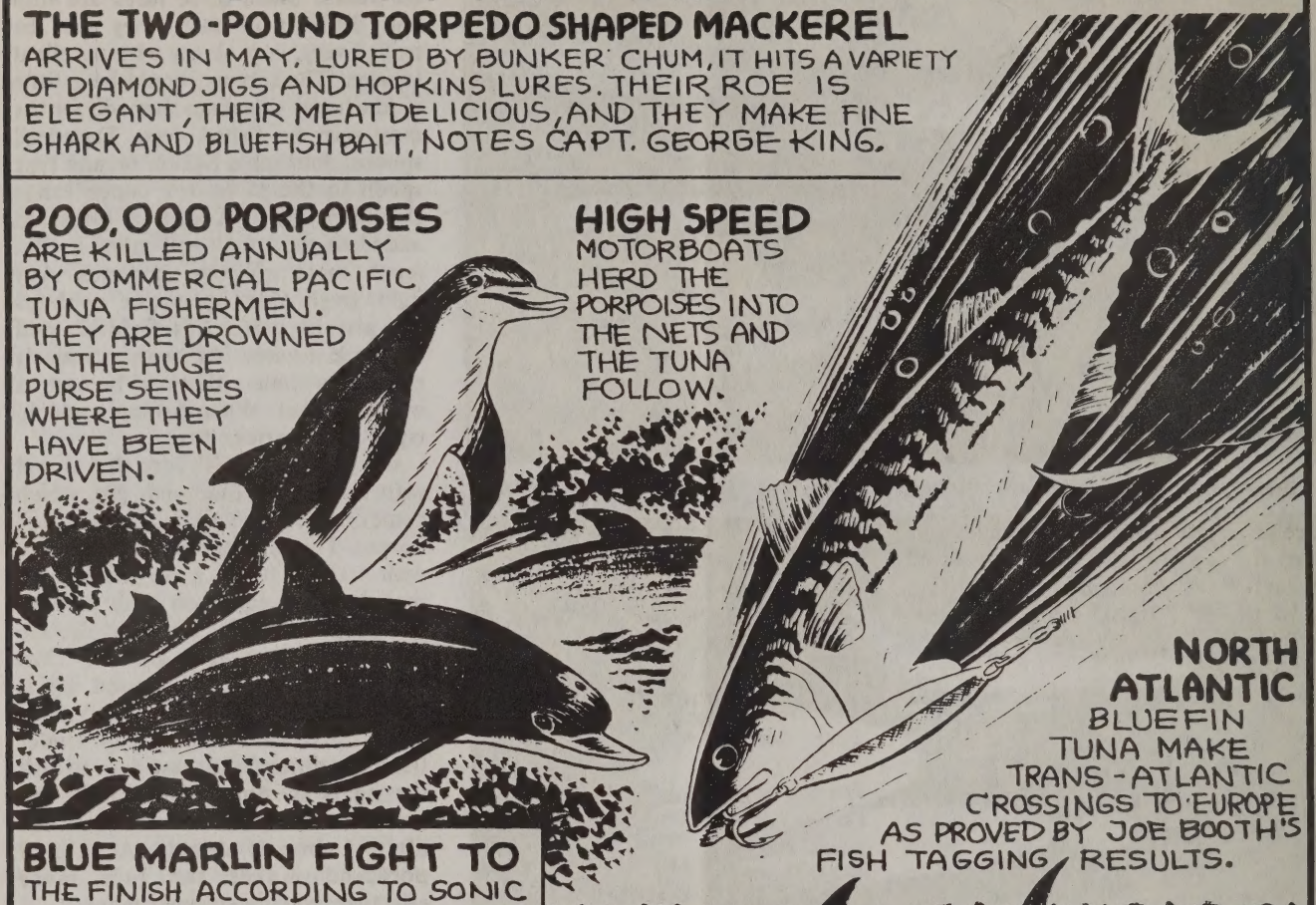
ARRIVES IN MAY. LURED BY BUNKER CHUM, IT HITS A VARIETY OF DIAMOND JIGS AND HOPKINS LURES. THEIR ROE IS ELEGANT, THEIR MEAT DELICIOUS, AND THEY MAKE FINE SHARK AND BLUEFISH BAIT, NOTES CAPT. GEORGE KING.

200,000 PORPOISES

ARE KILLED ANNUALLY BY COMMERCIAL PACIFIC TUNA FISHERMEN. THEY ARE DROWNED IN THE HUGE PURSE SEINES WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN DRIVEN.

HIGH SPEED

MOTORBOATS HERD THE PORPOISES INTO THE NETS AND THE TUNA FOLLOW.

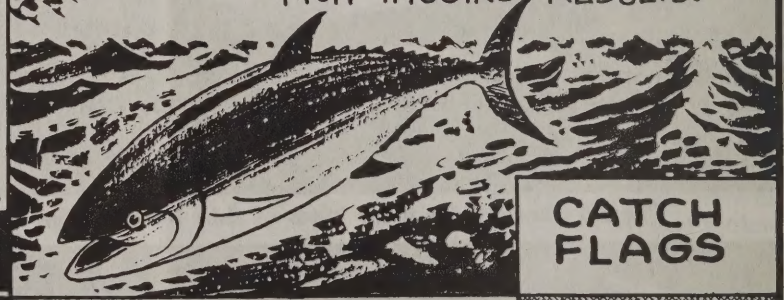


NORTH ATLANTIC

BLUEFIN TUNA MAKE TRANS-ATLANTIC CROSSINGS TO EUROPE AS PROVED BY JOE BOOTH'S FISH TAGGING RESULTS.

BLUE MARLIN FIGHT TO

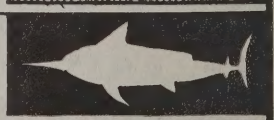
THE FINISH ACCORDING TO SONIC STUDIES MADE IN HAWAII. MORE THAN HALF OF ALL MARLIN RELEASED AFTER ROD AND REEL BATTLES DIE FROM A TOXIC BUILD-UP OF LACTIC ACID DURING THE FIGHT, REMINDS PETE "HERBEE MOTORS" RHEIN.



CATCH FLAGS

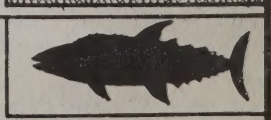
BLUE MARLIN – *RECTANGULAR* – DARK BLUE FISH ON LIGHT BLUE BACKGROUND.

WHITE MARLIN – *RECTANGULAR* – WHITE FISH – DARK BLUE BACKGROUND.



SAILFISH – *RECTANGULAR* – WHITE FISH – TOP HALF DARK BLUE, BOTTOM RED.

BLUEFIN TUNA – *RECTANGULAR* – DARK BLUE FISH ON WHITE BACKGROUND.



SWORDFISH – *TRIANGULAR* – TOP DARK BLUE, BOTTOM RED – WHITE SWORDFISH.

SO YOU WANT TO GO SURF FISHING, HUH!

by Gary Caputi

Opening day of trout season in New Jersey can be rough with conditions as they are, but the delicate technique and light spirit of the stream man cannot match the stout heart and calloused hands of the true surf fisherman. It is into his realm that we will venture to try wma find rhyme and reason for the obsession that drives this man to forget his family and job when he hears the fatal words, "The bass are running out on the 'Hook'!"

The "Hook," for all you people who are fortunate enough to not have been introduced to this region, is a local term for a finger of beach that extends into the New York Bight from the Highlands area of New Jersey, its full name being Sandy Hook State Park. About the beginning of fall the annual striper migration begins on the Hook as the bass head south toward their winter quarters in the Chesapeake Bay region and off the North Carolina coast. This run of fish has been rated as the second major cause of the rising divorce rate in the United States, not to mention the sharp rise in unemployment at the time of the yearly blitz. By the way, "blitz" is another one of those strange words that worked its way into our everyday vocabulary from its origin in the surf fishermen's jargon.

The reason for this short background on surf fishing and fishermen is to attempt to bring some type of understanding to the layman concerning this highly irrational form of "rest and relaxation" that is becoming ever more popular, while its productivity seems to steadily decline. You may think that a trout fisherman is slightly sick to get up at 5:00 A.M. to tramp off to some stream, but what possible description can one use for a man who gets up at 1:00 or 2:00 to fish, that is, if he hasn't already spent the entire night on the beach? My vocabulary finds itself at a loss, for somehow "lunatic" just doesn't seem strong enough. At any rate, these "more than mere fishermen" are on the surf hours before sunrise, tossing their weird concoctions into the darkness in hopes that Mr. Bass will grace them by taking a swipe at their offering.

To give you a little more insight into the workings of a surf fisherman's mind, there is one lure that is a must in any surf jockey's jetty bag or tackle box. While conducting a personal study of beach fishermen's tackle, I found that 98.6% of all those fishermen surveyed had at least one, and almost half had an assortment of these gems. The lure I am speaking of is called a tin squid. The reason for its overwhelming popularity is beyond my understanding, for I have never seen a fish taken on one in all the years I have been hanging around surf fishermen: Never try to take one away or ask why the fisherman has it, because you might get involved with a violent tin-slinger!

While on the subject of terminal tackle, a word about plug-tossers. These are the purists of the surf set, for they often look down on the average peon fishing bottom with sandworms. Plug men can't be bothered catching the shorts and schoolies that often plague bait fishermen. You can usually spot a plug caster, for he is invariably fishing alone and only grunts when spoken to by another fisherman.

Now that you are briefed follow me, if you will, through a typical day on the beach at Sandy Hook, matching wits with the elusive striped bass. The day begins early, with your fishing partner knocking on your bedroom window because you inadvertently shut off your alarm clock and went back to sleep. This seems to be a common problem with reluctant fishermen.

You stumble to the waiting car and speed off in the direction of the Hook, only an hour and a half away. About ten miles out you remember that you left the sandworms in the refrigerator and no tackle shop owner in his right mind is going to be open this early, so it's back to the house again. And so the day begins . . . .

As you pull up to the entrance to the park, the attendant comes out of the little house to collect his share of the days expences and usually comments, "Ain't nobody been takin' any fish for the past few days now, but you're welcome to try." He always makes sure he tells you this after he's taken your money. Somehow his news doesn't seem to coincide with the report in the fishing column of your local newspaper, but you proceed onward with no doubt in your mind that you're going to murder them today.

As you pull off the road into the parking area your headlights reveal 30 or 40 cars already there, and you know you're not going to have the beach all to yourself. The uneventful walk to the beach in your waders that are a full size too small, and are already killing your feet, is interrupted only by the scurrying of the local rodent population, better known as rats. As you near the water you hear shouts of, "Fish on!!! Somebody finally got something!" It's then that you get the feeling the fishing has been a little slow. In the light of someone's Coleman lantern you can see 15 fishermen standing around one man, who is busy landing a fish. With baited breaths, all eyes strain to catch a glimpse of the barely visible object at the end of the tight line. Disappointment is voiced rather loudly with cries of "AH,*#&†#*#, as the lucky fisherman beaches a skate, and a small skate at that.

As everyone drifts slowly back to their spots you set about finding one of your own; not an easy task when beach space is at a premium. After a quick search you find a place to park your jetty bag and body and start rigging up. Only minutes later you hop down to the water and wade in a little way, preparing to toss your Stan Gibbs popper into the pounding surf. You ready yourself, attaining just the proper stance, swing the rod back and gracefully cast. As the plug begins its flat forward trajectory the bail on your reel snaps closed, and a resounding "CRACK" is heard up and down the beach as your line breaks and the plug sails off in the general direction of France. To make matters worse, the force of the cast causes you to lose your footing and you take a tumble

Continued Next Page . . .

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into four feet of water.

While you're sitting on the beach, emptying the water out of your waders and trying to ignore the snickers and the outright laughs of the fishermen around you, you remember that you forgot to use one of those things the magazine called a "shock" leader, so it's back to the jetty bag for another crack at it. This time you rig up the right way and begin to cast and retrieve, cast and retrieve, cast and retrieve . . . About an hour later your arms are ready to give out, so you decide to switch to worms.

Worm fishing is somewhat more leisurely; you cast and set your rod in the sand spike so you can sit down for a while. It's then that the guy next to you starts pulling in schoolies. First it's just one, then another and another, until you can no longer take it. Finally, you swallow your pride and ask him what he's using, to which he replies, "Sandworms on a fishfinder rig." Something's wrong, because you're using sandworms on a fishfinder rig and you're no more than 5 feet away from where he's fishing. You're about ready to give up altogether when your rod starts to bob wildly, and you just about kill yourself trying to get to it in a hurry. Lifting hard, the hook is set and the fight is on; your first bass of the night, but he doesn't feel that big. When you finally get him on the beach and measure him, he's only 17½ inches long, ½ inch under the legal limit. Back he goes, even though it's killing you to do it.

The fish move out and the action slacks-off to nothing, and you decide it's really time to call it a day even though it's only 9:00 A.M. Time for the long, empty-handed trek back to the car, with the sand sucking at your feet which are badly blistered from the small waders. Disgusted and downhearted you get back to the car, only to see a little old man busily lashing a 50 pound bass to the rear deck of his 1954 Buick because it won't fit in the trunk. Leaning against the car is a nine-foot Calcutta rod with one guide and a tip top, adorned with an ancient looking Penn Squidder and what appears to be Irish linen line. Dangling from the end of the line is a big, hand-carved wooden plug with rusty treble hooks. As you pass he looks up and says, "Any luck boys? Fishin's a might slow today, ain't it?"

Ready to cry, wet, uncomfortable and absolutely dejected, you begin your ride home but the bug has you and there's no turning back now. You know you're going to be back, just as soon as you possibly can, because there's a big striper out there waiting for you, somewhere.

By now I can hear all you nonbelievers saying that's the biggest bunch of bull you've ever heard! Typical day at Sandy Hook, my eye! Well, just to set the story straight, the character in it is not fictional, but does really exist. What you have just read did happen. You see, the klutz in the story was me, and it was my first trip surf fishing. Most important of all, I have gone back, many, many times.

***Editor's Note: A recent news broadcast stated that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has submitted a proposal to remove the tip of Sandy Hook because of its need for gravel in other areas. We have been unable to verify the truth of this report.**

THE SILENT PARTNER

Continued from Page 9

hits 48 degrees. For the most accurate readings a photographers darkroom thermometer is ideal, while the various pocket types sold by Vexilar, Orvis and others do a creditable job.

The FISHING METHODS category requires only a general answer and some may wish to include it in under comments. I include it to see how much time I spend at different types of fishing, and to determine what methods produce the most fish per hour spent. This is a nebulous thing since many of us fish with methods for pure sport and satisfaction, knowing that the catch may not be great. An example would be salt water fly-rodding in certain instances when you know that if you put your boat in you could chase and catch those blues just out of casting range. As I said, it isn't too important but it's interesting.

I do keep close watch on my rods and reels and recording how often they are used helps with servicing them and keeping them in perfect shape. It has assisted me in streamlining my selection, since the unused rods and reels become obvious. In some instances this category has helped in the purchase of new equipment because it also shows which products hold up, and which other ones require constant attention and maintenance.

Checks on the spools of line have showed me those brands that fray easily, and those endowed with good knot strength. Some lines stiffen in cold water while others have excellent casting abilities under the same conditions.

The COMMENTS section is a catch-all, and is the heart of the log. Here is the place for details - bottom contours, depths, land marks, ranges, lures, techniques, etc. Anfthing and everything you feel is of additional importance should go into this section. Attach business cards from the local tackle shops for future phone calls for fishing reports, photographs, and if needed you can draw a map or chart on the back of the page for added data.

Under FISH TAKEN there is room for only eight fish, mostly because I usually don't catch more than eight fish unless it's a phenomenal day, such as one spent deep-jigging for blues when you can load the boat. When this happens I make a general entry with the appropriate comments.

Any fish killed are examined for stomach contents to determine the exact bait they were feeding on. The natural food might not even remotely resemble the lure you were chucking that day, so this is a good check on your results.

Knowing which lures are the most productive saves dollars in tackle. I'll admit that my Plano is bursting with lures I never seem to use, and my jetty bag is too cluttered, but I have been able to eliminate some real bombs from my assortment. I often discard colors that never work even though the style or type lure is good. Sometimes I wonder what ever possessed me to purchase half the tackle relegated to the junk pile (I never throw anything away - it might be useful someday).

Notice the space for tag number. Hopefully, as you keep the log your catch of gamefish will increase, as will your appreciation of them. Since you probably can't give them all away or use them yourself, tagging is an excellent alternative to wasting fish. I use the American Littoral Society tagging system, which is open to ALS members only. For more information on tagging you can write them at Highlands, N.J.

All in all, log keeping is enjoyable as well as rewarding by leading to better fishing. Often I like to look back, thumbing through the log and remembering past fishing trips, good catches, lucky lures and favorite rods and reels that fought many a fine fish. Some people think they can remember everything from each fishing experience, but I know better. The log is a necessary piece of equipment, just as rods, reels, lures or lines are.

With an accurate log, it won't be long before you'll be the savvy hot shot others ask, "Where are they hitting today?"

Note: Blank log sheets are available from the author at his cost of $1.00 per 50. Contact LIF.

CATSKILL TROUT FISHING

Continued from Page 11

around bridges, trailer camps, campsites and other easy-access areas. However, a good friend regularly lands numerous large fish, usually on bait, from the large pool just below the iron bridge in Phoenicia. The pool is flanked by a huge trailer camp and is probably the most heavily fished water on the entire stream.

The key to fishing the main stream rests on the height and clarity of the water. If the water is clear and wadable, fish will respond to flies; if not, try the upper Esopus or tributaries. Beware of the worst possible combination; a high muddy main stream in mid-summer because the portal is wide open; and low water conditions on the tributaries. You can inquire about the stream conditions by calling Folkerts Brothers, an excellent sporting goods store right in Phoenicia. Incidentally, this store stocks a terrific assortment of all rods, reels, fly lines, leaders, well constructed flies, spinners, clothing and paraphernalia; everything you could conceivably need. Herman and Dick Folkert and Herman Folkert, Jr. are all outstanding fly fishermen who will inform and outfit you if you so desire. They have one of the very best tackle shops in the entire northeast.

(Next Week: "Baits, Lures & Flies")

LURE FISHING FOR WEAKFISH

Continued from Page 12

one plans to release an exhausted fish, several steps must be taken so that the fish is returned unharmed. First remove the hooks with the fish still in the water. After the hooks are out, push the fish back and forth so that water passes through the gills. Some fish may still be lively when released, many aren't. It takes a few extra seconds to make sure the fish will be around to fight another day.

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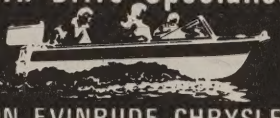

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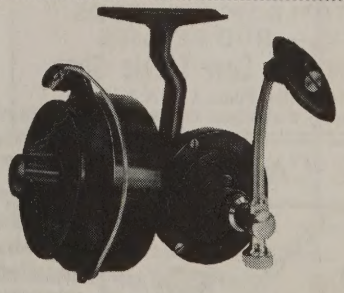

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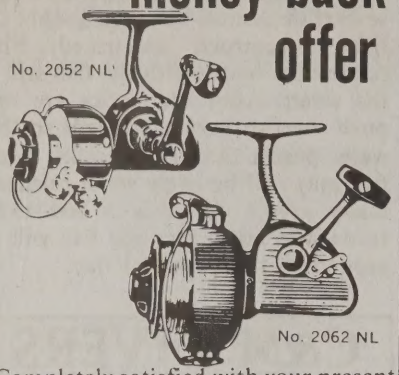

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South Shore Reports

DICK MERMON

MONTAUK

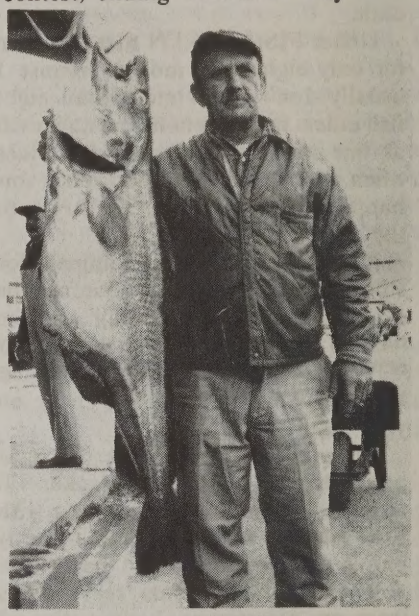
Capt. Richard Rade, skipper of the "Marlin III," reports Block Island codfishing is fair to good with a number of 5 to 8 lb. cod and pool fish in the 20 lb. class. On the weekend about 25 to 30 snowshoe flounders were taken on each day. There are also some decent blackfish around. On Saturday, the Marlin III came in with over 600 fish aboard.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the "Viking Star" reported the codfishing at Cox's Ledge is excellent. For example, the high hook on Sunday was Frank Dendowski with 41 fish. The cod are averaging in size from 2 to 22 lbs., with the pool fish usually in the 40 lb. class. On Sunday a hake of 50 lbs. was taken.

Mrs. Dorman of the "Viking Skipper" called to report three great days (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) of codfishing in the Block Island area. Bill Boyce of Rockaway was hi-hook on Friday with 35. Saturday's pool fish was caught by T. Casey of the Bronx. Weighed in at 30 lbs. even, when the fish was cleaned, a 1 lb. 5 oz. rock was found in his stomach.

Capt. Nick Kuzin of the charter boat "Tiger Shark" said he's fishing Block Island's southwest ledge for codfish and he's coming in with 100 to 125 fish per trip. There are also a few snowshoe flounder and blackfish being taken. Capt. Kuzin said he was told of the first pollack catches in the area. These were the big spring run pollack.

Capt. Les Behan of the "Peconic Queen" reported that codfishing has been especially good all week on Cox's Ledge. On Sunday, Mac Bush of Woodhaven got a 53¾ lb. cod. In its belly were 13 ling, a mackerel and 4 crabs. Ted Zanas of Richmond Hill pulled up a cod double-header, 47 lbs. and 40 lbs. (phew). Ted is a regular on the Queen says Skipper Les. On Saturday the pool fish was a 52 lb. hake. It was taken by Frances Bonilla of Brooklyn. The Peconic Queen's Cox's Ledge Cod Derby for $1500. thus far has a first place fish of 55 lbs., second place of 53¾ lbs., and third place of 48 lbs. This is a season-long contest, ending Columbus Day.



John Dreurschak, of Point Pleasant, N.J., caught this 55 lb. cod at Cox's Ledge while fishing aboard the "Peconic Queen II."

PROMISED LAND

Art Brand of Promised Land Fishing Station reports an average of 30 flounders to a boat through Friday. The wind cut the action down some on Saturday and Sunday. Those that braved the breezes had fish up to 3 lbs. Blackfish of 3 to 8 lbs. were mixed in. No mackerel or weaks taken by customers as yet, says Art. Al Pogson of Closter, N.J. fished alone and took 44 fish to 2 lbs. 11 ozs. He was back at the dock by 11 A.M.

SHINNECOCK

Capt. Clark Bellows, Jr. of the "Capt. Clark I" is now fishing the Peconics. Flounder catches are still pretty good. Some blackfish are being taken and we now have the first showing of weakfish. There were about a ½ dozen weaks on board, with one weighing 5 lbs.

Mickey Altenkirch of Altenkirch & Son informs us that weakfish have started showing well in Peconic Bay.

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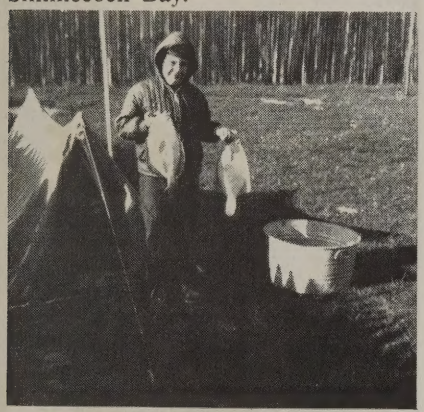
Surfcasters are getting weaks in good numbers off Cow Neck Point. The weakfishing in the Canal itself is good, especially when the locks are closed. Fred Havenmeyer took a 7 lb. 4 oz. weak on 4 lb. test, using white touts. He's entering this catch in IGFA 6 lb. class. Flounder are still very good in Shinnecock Bay.



Eddie Jarvis, an avid fisherman, age 7, of Patchogue, N.Y., with his Gardiner's Bay catch. The flatties weighed in at 2½ lbs. each.

SAG HARBOR

Noyac Marina reported excellent fishing in spite of bad weather, with a varied catch of stripers, blackfish, flounder and weakfish. Jim Graham's party had a nice 4½ lb. weak plus 1 king, 36 flounder and other smaller weaks. Russ Brown had blackfish and flounder and some weaks. Mackerel are showing and diamond jigs with multi-colored tubes are best. First stripers went to Guy Whittall and Randy Hall who trolled 11 bass up to 14 lbs. with bucktails spiced with strips of pork rind. The bass were taken off the ferry slip. The Belmont, N.J. Archery Club did very well with flounders near the ferry slip, taking home 56 from ¾ to 2½ lbs.

Dan McLane of Bayview Tackle & Bait said the flounder fishing was good all week long and not too bad on Saturday and Sunday, even though windy. Majors Harbor was the hot spot as was the area around Buoy 5. A few mackerel were jigged in the South Ferry area. Some weaks were atken on squid. Several blackfish were taken at Buoy 4.

Capt. Clark Bellows, Sr. of the "Capt. Clark II" reports the snowshoe flounders are in solid now. There were good catches over the weekend, with flounders running up to 3½ lbs. Clams and mussel baits worked equally well. The best spots were the Green Hills and Bostik Bay area.

Pictured is Mrs. Alison Ferrin, who with hubby, Bob, fished the weekend of April 20-22 at Mill Creek Marina, Sag Harbor. 65 flounders from ¾ to 1½ lbs. were taken on sandworms. Other smaller ones were returned to the water.

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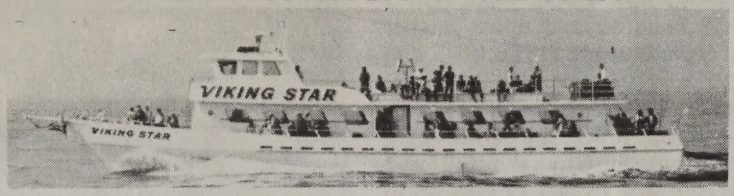

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HAMPTON BAYS

Frank's Fishing Station reports very good flounder fishing for the entire week, including Saturday and Sunday. Robert Sparano and Ray Tortorici took 150 flounders in the 1-2 lb. class on Saturday and Sunday. Bloodworms and chumming with mussels did the trick. Sunday was bedlam, Mrs. Muller reported.

Bill Maier, John and Pat Kelly fished Seatuck Cove out of Skidmore's Fishing Station for these flatties.

MORICHES BAY

The flounder fishing was good, reported Nancy at Skidmore's Fishing Station, until Sunday when the winds limited catches to 10-60 per boat. Saturday was great with catches up to 120 at 42 Buoy and by the Coast Guard Station at Harts Cove. Two bass were caught at the inlet by Lenny Fremgen on squid. Nancy suggests worms for bait combined with mussel chum. Red dyed clams are good too.

Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station reported good flounder action and plenty of fish to the west of the Red House by 27 Buoy and across the way at the public dock. Outgoing tide was the best for high hook George Link with 1½ buckets of flatties. Only 5 weaks were reported but everyone is waiting for next week.

The Obermeier brothers of Brooklyn, N.Y. pose with a nice catch of flounder. They fished Buoy #42 out of the Silly Lily Fishing Station.

MASTIC BEACH

Weakfish are starting at the deep hole near Buoy 17, reported Ray at Keenan's Fishing Station. Squid is the number one fish catcher, with Bagley's Salty Dogs second. High slack tide on Saturday and Sunday afternoons was the best time. Flounder are hitting well at 21 Buoy. A moving tide is best and worms or clams used with mussel chum. Blue claw crabs made an early showing on Thursday.

SAYVILLE

Dennis Masterson at the South Bay Fishing Station was happy about the excellent weakfishing that opened on Saturday and Sunday. Mike Andreycyk had the most with over 40, while Otto Bezler had the largest of 6 pounds. Smallest reported fish was 2½ lbs., and the best areas for drifting squid or casting pink Salty Dogs were at the holes between Buoys 4 and 5 and 28 and 29. Flounders are still available if you can get your bait down through the weakfish to the bottom huggers. Dennis predicts bigger tide runners for the nest three weeks.

CAPTREE

Capt. Ben Litwin, skipper of the boat bearing the same name, reprts flounder fishing is fair to good. Some of the better spots are South Beach, west of the Robert Moses Bridge, and Point O' Woods. Weakfish are beginning to show in the Great South Bay at Point O' Woods and off Hechscher Park.

Capt. Bob Patafio, skipper of the "Yankee," said the flounder fishing continued to hold up well. Right now the best spot seems to be the Sore Thumb area and the pocket off Oak Beach. The flatties are generally ¾ to 1 lb. with some nice 1¼ to 1½ pounders mixed in.

Capt. Speedy Hubert of the "Speedy V" reports the mackerel fishing has been excellent all week, however, they seem to have moved further offshore. It now takes about 1 hour and 20 minutes to reach the schools. On Sunday the macks were located just the other side of the N.B. Buoy. The night fishing trips for macks are also working out well. In a 4-hour trip, fares are coming up with a ½ to ¾ of a bag of fish.

Capt. George Tweedy, skipper of the "Capt. Scotty," reports the mackerel are located about one hour south of the Fire Island Inlet. What more can you say about mackerel? It's just a matter of locating the school and then all aboard catch. The macks being caught at this area are all the biggest kind of Bostons.

BABYLON

Mackerel fishing was good despite the winds reported Augie's Bait & Tackle, with best catches south southeast of Fire Island Inlet. Weakfishing has started for drift fishermen using squid along West Island, on the inside of Ocean Beach and at the Bay Shore Channel east of Captree. Dick Purcell had five nice weakfish to 4 lbs. and Audret Divino had a 7 pounder at Buoy 8. Flounder fishing is still good near the Babylon Dock and at the Coast Guard Station area at the changing tide.

Babylon Fishing Station pinpointed mackerel at 80 to 90' of water due

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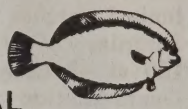

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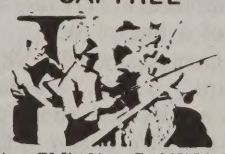

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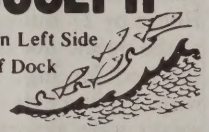

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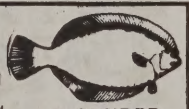

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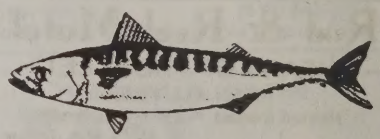

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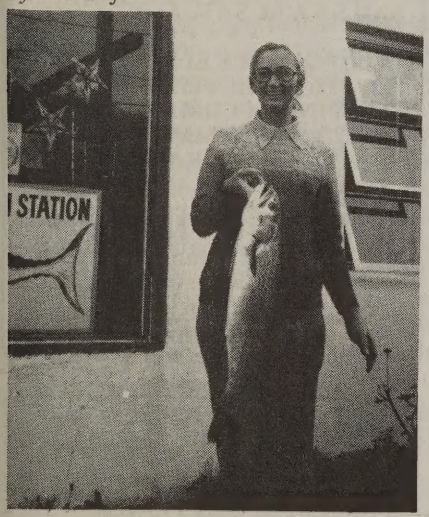
At the Ft. of Long Beach Bridge, Island Park

south of the Inlet, and reported red tubes the best. Squid and Salty Dogs are fooling weakfish at Buoy 13 off Ocean Beach and the West Channel by 7 Buoy.



Audrey Iovino caught this 7 lb. 3 oz. weakfish in the Bay Shore Channel, just east of the Captree Bridge. The big weak took a drifted strip of squid. Augie of Augie's Bait & Tackle said this was the first good sized weakfish he weighed in this season.

LINDENHURST

Charlie's Bait & Tackle reported good fishing for flounder and weaks. The flounder action is best at Lindenhurst and Babylon Beaches, at the State Channel and the Sore Thumb. First fluke was taken by Billy Peterson, a 3 pounder, on squid. The Capt. Libby takes honors for the most unusual catch - a 2 lb. blue claw crab! Charlie's suggests using Coast & Geodetic Survey charts which they now have available.

Weakfish broke open this weekend at Ocean Beach, Babylon Cut, Amity Cut, State Channel at Copiague and Gilgo, reported Duke's Tackle Shop. Catches were also made off Lindenhurst and Copiague Beaches by boatmen. Striped bass are still consistent but small at Cedar Beach, with flounders present in the surf as well. Best bait is sandworms. Blackfish have shown in Fire Island Inlet and at the Robert Moses Coast Guard Station. Offshore, mackerel are thick in 75 feet of water, with heavy reports of dogfish mixed in; a sure sign bluefish are not far behind. Several fluke in the 1-3 lb. range were brought in from the State Channel on sandworms.

Stu Carman of Lindenhurst and John Veltman of Centereach with four weakfish 2½ to 6 lbs., taken on shrimp tails off Copiague on Sunday.

SEAFORD

The best spot for flounder right now is Squaw Island, according to Lon Wanser's Tackle. Second best is the State Channel. Small bass are in the surf taking worms, and blackfish are just starting. Dave Zelder had the first on a mussel bait.

Eastern Reel Service confirmed an 8 lb. striper taken by a member of the Eastern Anglers Club. The bass was chummed with clams at the 3rd Bridge.

Pop's Fishing Station reported very good flounder fishing at Florence Beach all through the weekend.

"Whiting, ling, weaks, mackerel and flounder galore," reported Naomi Inn Fishing Station. Jones Inlet is best for ling and whiting. Flounder are everywhere east of the Wantagh Parkway and weakfish have been hitting at Squaw Island.

Good flounder fishing in Wantagh Bridge areas, reports Dell's Fishing Station. The Bellino family had 27 and George Rabinowitz had 12 over the weekend. George also had five ¾ lb. weakfish west of the 2nd Wantagh Bridge on worm baited flounder rigs.

WANTAGH

Flounder fishing holds steady along the channel with good catches reported to Causeway Bait & Tackle by Mr. Laforte at Buoy 5. Bruce Iorio had 6 weaks to 6 lbs. on sandworms at Short Beach and saw lots of working fish. Stripers are running small in the surf but blackfish are beginning to hit fiddlers at the bridges, especially the Meadowbrook. A few reports of fluke to Causeway marks the very beginning of this fishing.

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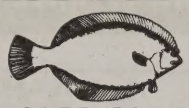
POOKA III

FLOUNDERS
8 AM DAILY



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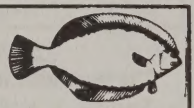

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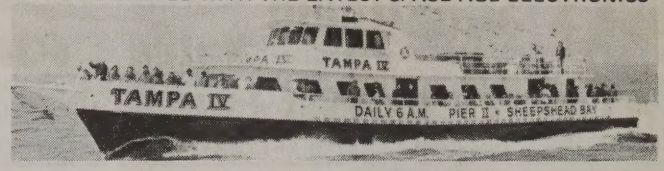

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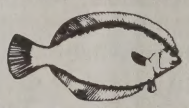

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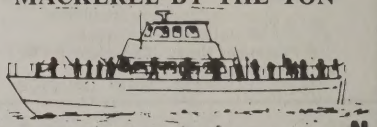

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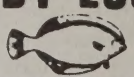

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NEW YORK BIGHT

FREEPORT

Freeport party boats like the "Capt. Al," "Star Stream" and "Capt. Hall" all reported excellent mackerel fishing in areas south of Cholera Banks and Angler Grounds. Most fishermen averaged a bag of macks apiece. Capts. Richie Kessinger and Al Lindroth tell me the mackerel have now departed the Cape May area and that this upcoming weekend could possibly be the last shot at the macks.

Capt. Bill Mieschberger of the party boat "Capt. Jack VI" said flounder fishing was slow for his charter on Sunday, so he went offshore and loaded up on the mackerel.

Capt. Sy Karlin of the "Blue Fin" said he found the fish scattered on Saturday and Sunday fishing in 85 to 90 feet of water about 12 miles off Jones Inlet. He said the fish were hitting in flurries and chum seemed to help hold the fish. A good number of whiting were also caugh.

Capt. Paul Schmidt of the "Aloma II" said Saturday's flounder action was slow, but Sunday more than made up for it. His 40 fares had over 400 flounders. One fluke was also caught. Paul said he saw plenty of weaks in Fundy Bay but that they were too spooky to take a bait or lure.

POINT LOOKOUT

Capt. Art White of the Point Lookout "Angler" said mackerel fishing is as good as ever. Capt. White said he found the fish to be further offshore than last week but reports they are bigger than ever, averaging a pound and a half and better. Fishing conditions were better on Sunday than they were on Saturday, with the ocean being much calmer. Plenty of fish were caught on both days.

Capt. Andy Pollio of the charter boat "Junior II" fished the Stone Barge Wreck on Sunday with some success. Blackfishing was fair to good, with some fish going to 5 lbs. A few small pollack and one 5 lb. cod were also taken. The highlight of the day was the sea bass they caught and also a tagged blackfish.

Dave Lemke of Ed's Fishing Station reports excellent flounder fishing. Dave said Gabby Cerny and Bill Hermanek of Westbury caught a half bushel of big flounders, the biggest going 2¾ lbs. Worms were the bait. Anglers fishing the Meadowbrook Bridge are having success with blackfish using fiddler crabs for bait.

Paul Waller shows the mackerel he caught while fishing aboard a Freeport party boat.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Leon Miller of Henning's Fishing Station reports that the mackerel have moved offshore and the main concentration appears to be in the area three miles west of the B.A. Buoy. Leon said blackfishing is excellent and areas such as Buoy 4, the Silver Point Jetty, the 28th Street Wreck and the Atlantic Beach Bridge have been yielding fish up to 7 lbs. Al Odsen and Jerry O'Keefe landed over 50 blacks up to 7 lbs. They also had a dozen flounder between 1 and 1½ lbs. Gerald Materazo of Ozone Park and his friend Tony Crisci of Ridgewood managed over two dozen blacks between 4 and 5 lbs. Many smaller fish were caught and released. Another fisherman who scored well on blackfish was George Bell of Cedarhurst. Fishing with a friend on both Saturday and Sunday, they loaded up with blacks using fiddlers for bait. Weakfish are being caught between Beach 60 and 90. Squid has been the hot bait.

ISLAND PARK

Capt. Clem Esposito of the party boat "Commodore" said his fares loaded up while mackerel fishing the area south of Cholera Banks. The Commodore has stopped flounder fishing and will be on a daily run for the macks.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny Killoran of Santo's Sport Shop reports that striped bass quality is on the rise. Joe Poster managed 14 fish, of which 7 were keepers. The largest went 15½ lbs. Worms turned the trick. Pete Vardijan, fishing at Annadale Beach, landed a fish on Sunday evening. It weighed 15 lbs. 3 ozs. Lenny said a few fish are being taken on yellow bucktails but worms produce the most.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Mike's Tackle Shop reports excellent mackerel fishing, although the fish have moved offshore. Boats continue to load up on these fish. Some big flounders are being taken at Rockaway Inlet. Blackfishing has greatly improved along the jetty and on local wrecks along the Rockaways and the Tin Can Grounds. A few stripers are being taken on worms, however, most of these fish are shorts.

Capt. Dom Palermo of the "Lady Lou II" said he fished the area of the B.A. Buoy on the weekend and loaded up with mackerel. Beginning next Sunday, the Lady Lou II will be on a regular schedule for blackfish.

JAMAICA BAY

Rudy's Tackle Shop reports good flounder fishing in Silver Hole and also the North and South Channel Bridges. Jamaica Bay is loaded with eels and they can be caught just about everywhere using worm bait. Some sharpies have been doing very well with 3 and 4 lb. weakfish fishing in the area of Pumpkin Patch Channel. They have been baiting and chumming with grass shrimp.

SANDY HOOK

Capt. Bunting of the "Sea Horse" reported mackeel fishing couldn't be better. Fishing the area of the Farms, his fares loaded up on the macks. A few small cod were also caught.

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Too much wind limited the flounder catches behind the Park but boaters still managed 20-30 fish. Some stripers are hitting worms along the surf. Julian's Tackle also reported good mackerel fishing out at the Shrewsbury Rocks, with whiting, pollack and ling mixed in.

SEABRIGHT

Flounder fishing was good inside the sheltered waters of the Navesink River, according to Artie at Giglio's Tackle. Stripers were taken by Phil Edwards with a 7½ pounder, Al Flemings with a 9½ lb. bass, and John Pandure with fish up to 5 lbs. Surf action is the best with worms. Weakfish have been confirmed by Artie, and this fishing will pick up any day now.

MONMOUTH BEACH

Small stripers are all over the Shrewsbury and Navesink Rivers, says Monmouth Bait & Tackle. Best catches are with worms on a 3' leader with a dobber to float the worm on a drift. Surf fishing is improving, and one angler, John Reardon, took one bass and one bluefish along the beach opposite the Tackle Shop. Birds are working over feeding fish in the rivers, so bass will not be hard to locate.

NORMANDY BEACH

Flounder are hitting in the bays, along the Canal and near the bridges from Bay Head to Barnegat. Most stripers are still on the small side, according to the Fish N' Tackle Shop, but kings and whiting are readily available along the wash for some good fishing using bloodworms.

ISLAND BEACH

Even with the winds some bass were weighed in at Judy & Bill's Tackle Shop. Harry Linkin has stripers to 8¼ lbs., Phil Contino and his brother, Jimmy, took them to 10 lbs., and Shell Karis had bass to 5 lbs. Sandworms, or green worms if you care to dig your own, are the producing bait. Flyrodders like Richie King are hitting into bass up to 8 lbs. on the long wand. Kingfish are right in the surf now and mackerel are available offshore.

LONG BRANCH

"Fishing at the Long Branch Pier has been excellent," says Matty Sowel. Whiting and ling are running to 1 lb. and 4 lbs. respectively, with herring and mackerel the preferred baits. Night fishing at the pier sees anglers taking home 2-8 dozen fish.

North Shore Reports

GREENPORT

Capt. Dave Green of the "Pooka III" reports that on Saturday the fishing was rated as fair at best, however, on Sunday, with the Squadron Anglers on board, the snowshoe flounder fishing was excellent. The waters of Gardiners Bay, off the Ruins was the hot spot. James Burke of Massapequa Park took the pool with a 3 lb. flattie.

ROCKY POINT

Nick's Bait & Tackle reports that flounders are still plentiful. Blackfishing is excellent, with fish weighing as much as 8 lbs. Quite a few stripers are being caught as a by-product of flounder fishing. Many of the bass are shorts.

SOUTHOLD

Bill Lieblein of the Port of Egypt Fishing Station reports that the Huntington Anglers group consisting of Dan Maro, John Kulju and Bob Salerno, caught 35 flounders with mussels fishing the incoming tide at Orient State Park. Lloyd Gunzburg and his sons, Wayne, Herb and Elliot, of East Hill, returned with a good catch of flounders. A 5 lb. blackfish was also caught. They fished the area of the Windmill. The first weakfish of the season was caught at Buoy 16 by George Hakiel. Roger Pfeiffer of Old Tappan, N.J. managed 18 weaks up to 5 lbs. on Saturday. Tom and Alex Polliwoda also had 14 weaks. Squid was the bait. Paul Kester of Albertson, L.I. had a mixed bag of weakfish to 4 lbs., blacks up to 5 lbs., and a mess of flounder. He fished in the area of Jessups, Buoy 17.

MOUNT SINAI

Mrs. Davenport of Ralph's Fishing Station said the boats loaded up all weekend with mackerel at Buoy 11 and just about anywhere you dropped a line. Flounders are in the bay and the Sound. Blackfish are in the Sound at Miller Place and Mount Misery.

PORT JEFFERSON

Capt. Bill Littlefield, skipper of the "Jib III," reports the mackerel fishing at Buoy 11 is nothing short of excellent. The macks are sometimes

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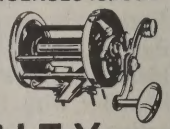

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found at Mt. Sinai or at the mouth of Port Jeff Harbor, but for the most part, Buoy 11 is the spot. There are some nice sized flounders right on the shoal for those who drop a baited hook to the bottom. These flatties run up to 2½ lbs. Saturday, Tec-Metal of Hauppauge took the charter. It was a steady pick all day but during the last hour, the mackerel were being bailed over the side. On Sunday, Green Plains Sportsmen of Greenlawn fished aboard the Jib III. The action was not as great as it was on Saturday, but there were more than enough fish for everyone. The mackerel are generally 1 to 2 lbs. One fish weighed 3½ lbs. A few short striped bass were also caught on the shoal. The bass were hitting the mackerel jigs. One fare snagged a bunker.

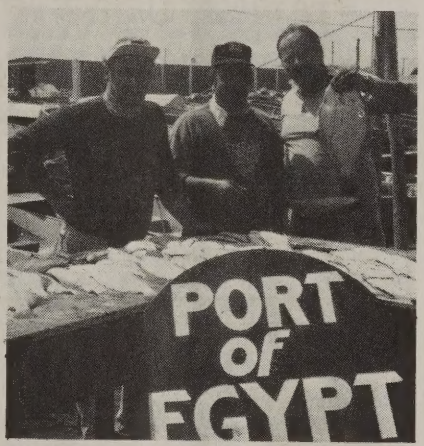
The "Betty W" had a charter for seven men of the Lighthouse Fishing Club of Uniondale on Saturday. They loaded up on mackerel and had over 150 flounder. John Rodick took the pool with a 4 lb. blackfish. On Sunday, 20 men of the Samson Paper Co. had great catches of mackerel, flounder and blacks. Rocky Berelli of Mastic had a 7 lb. blackfish to take the pool. Short stripers were mixed in with the mackerel.

NORTHPORT

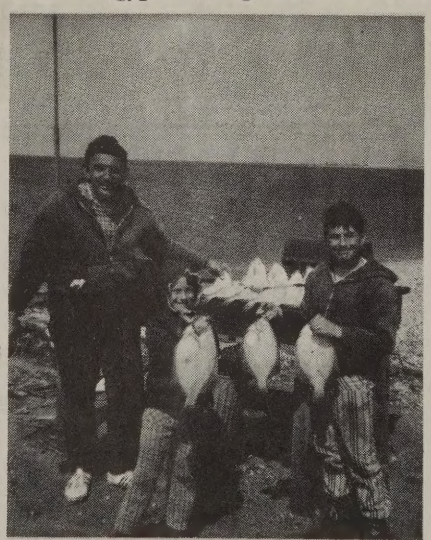
Ted Bowman of Bowman's Tackle said that there are plenty of mackerel along the Sound in 30-40' of water, a couple of hundred yards offshore. They are taking almost any lure you can think of - diamond jigs, bucktails, shrimp touts, etc. Nice blackfish are being taken from the shore from the Coast Guard Station to Makamah Beach. Plenty of good flounders are around. Plenty of stripers are being taken at Asharoken Beach. Ted said he had one caster take 10 keepers on Saturday. The weakfish are expected momentarily.

GLEN COVE

John Cacciola of Glen Cove Sports said that there are plenty of flounders in the area and some mackerel have worked their way down the Sound. Lots of small stripers and a few keepers at Prybil Beach. Good catches of blackfish from 3-5 lbs. are also being taken at the Prybil Beach vicinity.



Irving Friedman and friends caught 60 flounders up to 2¼ lbs. at Buoy #2 (right side of Cedar Point). Photo by Port of Egypt Fishing Station.



Tony, Scott and Gary Ingegno, of Bayport, with their catch of 31 flounder, taken at Promised Land on May 1st. Scott, age 7, caught the best at 3 lbs. 1 oz.

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CONNECTICUT SCENE

DICK ALLEY

Mackerel, bass, blackfish, flounder, and from the eastern end of the State, a run of pollack. Fishing is way up over last year, and the season is only beginning.

NORWALK

Rick Mola at Mola Bros. Bait & Tackle reports mackerel catches in the hundreds. Set the compass at 165 degrees, run a half hour outside Pecks Ledge, and fill up the fish box. Cousin Bruce has been racking up a score on schoolies around Sprite Island, Seymours Rock, and inside Cockenoe Island. Rick reports that most of the released fish have been keeping size. Flounder continue both inside and outside.

Rita Utz at Four Winds Bait & Tackle was admiring a catch of mackerel by hubby Bob and Bob Unger. A half hour's fishing had produced 22 macks, averaging about 2 pounds. Some nice catches of flounder were taken on night crawlers during the sandworm diggers' strike. (Now that the strike is over, there'll be a big hike everywhere for seaworms.)

At the Tackle Box, Gloria Borges told of mackerel around Buoy 24A, school bass off Calf Pasture Pier, and passed on a report from Overtons Boat Rental of Bob Z. and his brother, who recorded a one-day catch of 175 flounder near Sprite Island.

BRIDGEPORT

Bob Zam Pidri at Bob's Bait told of bass catches at Seaside Park, and the harbor powerhouse. Flats are still holding strong, with mackerel reported at the 2nd dumping grounds. Bob, by the way, will be carrying live pond shiners for the fresh water anglers this season.

At the Sportsman's Den, Stowie has had reports of excellent blackfishing around Milford Point and the Stratford breakwater, with the biggest so far scaling 9 lbs. Plenty of school bass populate the waters around the Gun Club. Trout fishing is picking up after a week-long slowdown. Stowie took a pair of 16 inchers from Lake Candlewood over the weekend.

Mackerel and blackfish share the glory at Ted's Bait & Tackle in Black Rock. Ted told of Joe Deaso, who, fishing near the Stratford Light, took 17 blacks, the biggest a respectable 11 lbs. Joe used green crabs. Fran Murphy scored on the mackerel south of Penfield Light, using tube and Scotty rigs. In the flounder department, Al Lockwood took 62 in a day at Penfield, some scaling 2 lbs.

WESTPORT

Ed Boland at the Westport Tackle Shop advises on fantastic blackfishing around Penfield. In the mackerel department, one fisherman filled a pail a short distance outside Buoy 22. Copp McNulty was picking them up a a mile off Westport, and Harry O'Connell was the first to score in Compo Yacht Basin, pulling in a pair of two pounders. John Tate moved to the deeper waters of mid-Sound for a total of 60 "Bostons." and Doc Omohundro filled a plastic garbage pail. Al Trinardi found the bass a little bigger at Bedfords Point this week, picking up a 9 pounder on a Rebel, and Mac McElwee called tonight to report that the Alou Eel is hot in the Norwalk Islands. Eleven of keeping size between supper and dark isn't a bad catch.

STAMFORD

We spoke with Chris at Pat's Marina. She says the mackerel are thick in Stamford waters. Pat Chirillo and Roland Cassara came in with a pile, and Al Abajowski took a half bushel between pulling his lobster pots. Anglerette Betty Davis scored with night crawlers on flounder, tallying 50 in an afternoon. Blacks are beginning to hit, with more and more big ones in the lobster pots every day.

Subscriber Dick Sosna called in to report that he, his son Ricky and Frank Arrico trolled the area called "The Cows," Buoy 32 off Stamford. They caught 46 Boston mackerel for a total of 80 lbs. of fish.

GREENWICH

First teen-size bass of the year goes to Ralph Canali, and it weighed in at 14½ lbs. at the Sportsmen's Den here, says Russ Van Wynen. The fish was taken in Greenwich Cove on a bucktail. The big one was overshadowed by the best run of schoolies in many years to hit the Greenwich area. A day earlier, Ralph recorded 50 bass in 50 casts, and Howie Tichauer performed a similar feat during the week. Mackerel are more towards Long Island's north shore, but this could change between the writing and the printing of this piece.

The flounder fishing is only dampened slightly by the hike in worm prices, with good-sized flounder of this season still a bargain. Russ will be carrying fiddler crabs now that the blacks are running strong.

WESTCHESTER

A letter from Ted Keatley, co-author of the book, FISHING WESTERN LONG ISLAND SOUND,

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reminds us of the 3rd Annual Salt Water Fishing Clinic, sponsored by the Southern New York Fish & Game Association, Inc., to be held in the Westchester County Center, White Plains, N.Y. on Wednesday, May 16th, beginning at 7:45 P.M.

I thoroughly enjoyed myself serving on the panel last season, and this year, will be in the company of such distinguished men of the fishing world as Ken Bay, a great fisherman, author of Salt Water Flies, and Director of the Striped Bass Fund. Art Glowka, author, lecturer, ecologist, and one of the organizers of the Fund will be there, too. Bill Buckley, striper man and tackle expert, will be on the panel as well as Capt. John Gasparrini, of the Playland Fishing Concession in Rye. Chester Zawicki, Senior Aquatic Biologist of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, will field questions along with the rest of us, so if you do or don't have a problem, come along. Ted Keatley himself will chair the meeting. To realize Ted's expertise, you need only read the book, Fishing Western Long Island Sound, co-authored by he and Fred Luks, Outdoor Editor and columnist for many national and regional magazines.

The fishing picture in Westchester was summed up by Fred Archer, who reports it as just fantastic. First mackerel of the year are well established, and with the worm strike over, flounder and blacks are also available. Unfortunately, I couldn't connect with Camerons or Dan Catalano at Point Tackle this week, but there'll be all the more to write about for the next report.

NEW HAVEN

The bass are really thick in New Haven waters, but many are below the 16 inch legal limit, anglers estimating only one in ten being a keeper. Savin Rock is the spot, so if you're going there, bring along a supply of fish tags. The return from a tagged fish is nearly as much of a thrill as the fish itself. Blacks are big and plentiful. Ray Stopka fishing only evenings with 12 pound test line, I might add, has been scoring on fiddlers and green crabs. His biggest so far scaled 9¾ lbs. Walt Janeczek at Outdoor Sports tells us the Connecticut River shad run at Enfield Dam is an on and off thing. 73 fish were taken last Wednesday, and over the weekend, a Mr. Nelson from Norwalk allegedly set a new State Record with a 9 lb. 2 oz. shad. Then there are days when nobody scores. They should peak out in about two weeks. Flats to 2 lbs. are common at Stonington and Stony Creek, with these bigger fish going to boats. Reservations are in order for weekends at Freddy's Boat Rental in Stonington.

WATERFORD

Walt Hillyer at Hillyer's Bait & Tackle tells us that fishing has broken wide open in and around the Niantic River. I hope to head up and try for the run of foot-long pollack now being taken around the Niantic River Bridge and Millstone. Mackerel are hot at Wilderness Point, with many fish scaling to 3 lbs. Blacks and flounder are hitting well outside Buoy 4 and Millstone, and bass are on the move. They'll probably be outside and running the beaches by the time this reaches print. Cod are popular at such spots as Blacks Point, Millstone, Barletts Reef, and Wilderness Point. The head boats are traveling to Block Island and reporting improving catches.

PARTY BOATS

"Cherry Red" is an expression party boat skippers use when the fishing is close to perfect, and that's what John Minnitti, skipper of the Delmar out of Greenwich had to say about the current mackerel run when I called. High hook of 125 on Monday was topped on Thursday with 135 big Bostons. That's gotta be some fishin'.

Ed Brower sailing his Dolphin from Bridgeport, has been favoring Wading River, and hitting flounder, blacks, and mackerel.

With all the fishing around, it's hard to imagine anything better, but already we heard rumors of weakfish in the Sound, and did I hear somebody say something about blues in New Jersey?

HUDSON RIVER

PETE BARRETT

KINGSTON

Large brown trout are hitting sawbellies up in the Pepacton Reservoir near Downville, reported Roy Schneider of Roy's Bait & Tackle. Average catches run about 3-5 pounds. On the Hudson, stripers are falling for bucktails and minnows all along the shoreline. Crappies are the fare in the tributaries leading to the River, with nightcrawlers and minnows the best baits.

WAPPINGERS FALLS

Some trout were reported to the B & M Bait Shop from the surrounding streams, while in Wappingers Lake, carp and catfish are hitting well. Perch and stripers along the River were taking worms fast and furious all week long.

VERPLANCK

According to Charlie White at Ace & Charlie's Tackle, striper fishing is improving at Oscawanna and Crugers, while action at the Oyster Beds has been limited by the high winds last

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week. Larger bass have been reported from Stony Point and at Cornwall. Bloodworms and bucktails seem to put most of the stripers on the stringer.

CROTON POINT

The lower Croton River at the old bridge abutments has had stripers for a week now, and catches of up to 5 lbs. have been weighed in at the Croton Bait & Tackle Shop. Bass and perch are hitting well at the mouth of the River, at the Penn Central Bridge on bloodworms, and along the RR tracks up at Harmon.

Ed Graser of the Outdoorsmen Ltd. took time off last week to take an 8 lb. Croton Bay striper on a yellow bucktail.

OSSINING

Best striper of the week went to Jerry Gomber of the HRFA, who took a whopping 38 pounder on a gray back Mee-Mee plug off Crawbuckie Beach while wading with light tackle. Other entrants in the HRFA Tournament will have to go some to beat this nice catch but there are still many other fine prizes available for the other top 13 bass. Tony's Bait & Tackle reported stripers by Mike Girvalo and Mary Lou Morabito up to 7 lbs., Benny Casalaro with a 22 lb. 8 ouncer, Charles Mealing with a catch from 4-11 lbs., and Tony and his son with bass from 4-16 lbs. Crawbuckie Beach south to Bishops Rocks are the good spots, however, Tony urges caution for first timers to the Rocks because of many rocks just below the water. Yellow bucktails, swimmers and bloodworms are the winning combinations.

FORT LEE

Most fishermen are concentrating on tommies and perch so the good striper fishing is passed by along the Interstate Park, says Ed Graser of the Outdoorsmen Ltd. Bass to 6 lbs. are being caught, and catfish up to 4 lbs. on herring and shad chunks.

RHODE ISLAND

Lou Allmeida, owner of Top Of The Dock Bait & Tackle in Narragansett reports that the school bass, mostly 2-8 pounders, are in good. Upperman jigs, similar lead heads and dropper rigs are what the surfcasters in rocky Rhody are using. All fish seem to be taken in the surf. A few 20 pounders have been taken on live herring from shore. Weakfish are spotty. Lunker bass are expected to bust loose with the May moon tide around the middle of May. Blackfish and flounder are there to be had of course, and fluke are starting to be picked up here and there. Cod can be had off the boats and doormat fluke are not totally unknown at the Narragansett breakwater.

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TIDES: SOUTH SHORE
SANDY HOOK STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	2:50	3:36
Fri.	3:53	4:35
Sat.	4:55	5:31
Sun.	5:50	6:19
Mon.	6:37	7:00
Tues.	7:20	7:42
Wed.	7:59	8:17
Thur.	8:37	8:55

	H.	M.
MANASQUAN	-0	12
STATEN ISLAND	+0	07
ROCKAWAY INLET	0	00
Bergen Beach	+0	29
J.F.K. Airport	+0	26
EAST ROCKAWAY INLET	-0	06
Long Beach Bridge	+0	19
JONES INLET	-0	19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0	25
Zachs Bay	+1	25
Oligo Island	+2	25
Seaford Harbor	+2	05
FIRE ISLAND INLET	-0	38
West Great South Bay	+2	10
Heckscher State Park	+3	20
East Great South Bay	+3	44
MORICHES INLET	-0	56
Smiths Point	+3	28
Harts Cove	+1	30
Potuak Point	+3	35
SHINNECOCK INLET	-0	50
East Quogue	+2	45
Shinnecock Canal	+1	18
Indian Reservation	+3	05

TIDES: L.I. SOUND
WILLETS POINT STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	7:09	7:45
Fri.	8:15	8:44
Sat.	9:12	9:35
Sun.	10:05	10:23
Mon.	10:50	11:04
Tues.	11:33	11:41
Wed.	------	12:12
Thur.	12:12	12:45

	H.	M.
Little Neck Bay	-0	10
Execution Light	-0	06
Manhasset Bay	-0	01
Hempstead Harbor	-0	11
City Island	-0	03
Rye Beach	-0	28

TIDES: L.I. SOUND
BRIDGEPORT STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	4:40	5:22
Fri.	5:50	6:19
Sat.	6:49	7:11
Sun.	7:42	7:56
Mon.	8:27	8:35
Tues.	9:05	9:15
Wed.	9:44	9:51
Thur.	10:21	10:28

	H.	M.
Lloyd Point	+0	08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0	08
Bayville Bridge	+0	13
Eatons Neck Point	+0	03
Northport Bay	+0	03
Norwalk Islands	+0	10
Smithtown Bay	-0	03
Cranes Neck Point	+0	05
Port Jeff Harbor	+0	03
New Haven Harbor	-0	08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0	08
Herod Point	-0	07
Mattituck Inlet	+0	19
Horton Point	-0	20
Truman Beach	-0	42

TIDES: B.I. SOUND
NEW LONDON STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	6:26	7:01
Fri.	7:31	8:00
Sat.	8:28	8:50
Sun.	9:21	9:39
Mon.	10:11	10:24
Tues.	10:56	11:03
Wed.	11:35	11:45
Thur.	------	12:17

	H.	M.
Orient Point	+0	27
Connecticut River	+1	10
Little Gull Island (Race)	+0	12
Greenport	+1	04
Southold	+1	43
New Suffolk	+2	26
South Jamesport	+2	32
Shinnecock Canal	+2	33
Noyack Bay	+2	05
Sag Harbor	+0	59
Gardiners Bay	+0	21
Promised Land (Napeague)	-0	14
Fort Pond Bay	-0	29
Montauk Inlet	-0	25
Montauk Point	-1	13

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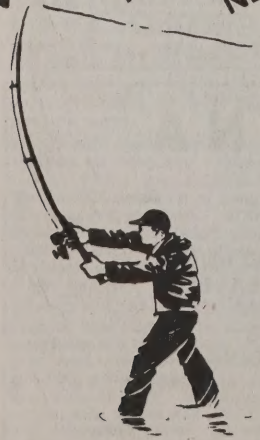

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